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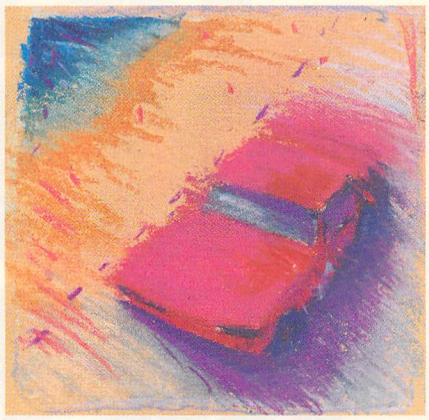

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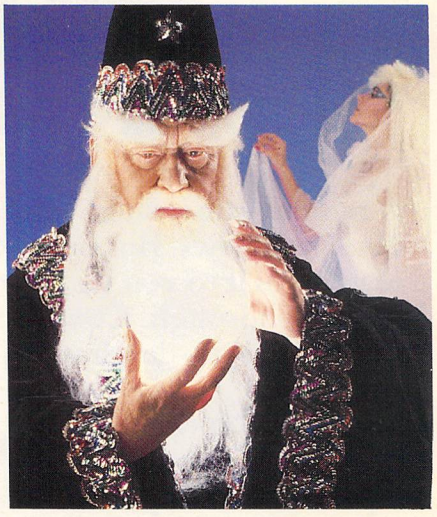

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Too Hot to Print

Catch computer industry news as it happens, keep up with online events, read special reports, commentary and more product reviews. You'll find it only in *Online Today Daily Edition*, a daily-updated newspaper full of information that's too hot to print. GO OLT.

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DEAR READER

Maybe you're halfway through another hectic week and have visions of getting away for sun and solitude. But how can you plan a trip if you can't even get away from the office long enough to pick up information from your travel agent? Relax. There's still time to catch the Weekend Express. Your ticket is waiting for you on page 48.

You'll find tips for making complete travel arrangements online—at your convenience rather than the convenience of a travel agent's office. And when you're limited to a weekend or extended weekend for revitalization, the time you save in planning online can make all the difference—once you're done planning, you can relax and enjoy the excursion, rather than worrying about last-minute details.

Contributing Editor Carole Houze Gerber, a well-traveled writer, shows you how to make the most of weekend trips—by land, air and sea—in this month's cover story. You'll learn about places to go online to collect information and make plans before leaving home—everything from where to order trip routing charts and destination tapes to where to look up listings for Bed & Breakfast Inns.

If you're planning to take your laptop computer along, you'll want to read Dan Janal's "Tips for Travelers Who Telecommunicate" on page 51. You'll learn what equipment to bring and how to access CompuServe while you're on the road. Janal speaks from experience—he's crisscrossed the country to do live reports from computer trade shows for *Online Today Daily Edition*.

* * *

Also in this issue, you'll find several articles about online forums. Personal investors will find descriptions of freeware and shareware programs in "The Price is Right," on page 16 in the Business/Investing section. Anyone with an Apple II or Macintosh computer will want to read about the reorganization of the Micronetworked Apple Users Group and the opening of the Apple Vendor Support Forum, both detailed in this month's Computing Services section, beginning on page 18. The concept of vendor support is also popular within the gaming community; The Gamers' Forum now has a support area for such vendors as Activision, Electronic Arts, Infocom and Sir-Tech Software. For more information, see "Improve Your Game with Vendors' Tips" on page 45.

* * *

Finally, CompuServe subscribers will be interested to know that transcripts of "The Computer Chronicles," now in its fifth season on PBS, are now available online for reading or downloading. Whether you're interested in the Macintosh-DOS connection, financial spreadsheets or Adam Osborne, you'll find interesting reading in the transcripts. For more details, see "Television Show's Transcripts Chronicle Computer Age" on page 20.

Douglas G. Branstetter
Editor

ONLINE TODAY

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Art Hunt
Peoria, Ill.

Subject Index

I haven't seen a printed Subject Index in *Online Today* since the June 1987 issue. When is the next one scheduled to appear? A number of the GO commands have changed.

Perry Norton
Leonia, N.J.

Editor's Note: The Subject Index has been discontinued in favor of the CompuServe Almanac, for which Online Today *publishes updates several times a year. The Subject Index, while handy, was always out of date because of the magazine's lead time (about four months). You can purchase the CompuServe Almanac and then watch* Online Today *print edition for free updates. For an up-to-the-minute list of everything that's online, type GO INDEX. To buy the Almanac, type GO ORDER and follow the menus. A new edition of the Almanac has recently been released.*

Weekly Wrap-up Stories

Since I don't always have time to check *Online Today Daily Edition* each day, I check in weekly to get the Quotes of the Week and Monitor Week in Review. It would be helpful if you could keep about three weeks' worth of these news items online—not all the stories, just the wrap-up columns.

Mike Anderson
Columbus, Ohio

Correction

In the article "Timely Tax Decisions Yield High Returns" (December 1987, p. 33), the statement "For those in the highest (38.5 percent) bracket, 'each $1,000 they can get into a deduction this year is worth $385 under next year's law' ..." is incorrect. The implication is that the $385 savings is in actual tax. In fact, the statement should read, "each $1,000 they can get into a deduction this year is worth $385, compared to $330 under next year's law."

In addition, based on information available at the time, the article implied that IRA deductions were not limited for married people filing separately. In reality, the limits apply to all marrieds filing separate returns regardless of their incomes. Another piece of information that has changed since the article was written is the reduced deduction for investment interest. A reduced deduction for investment interest will be available over the next four years until that deduction becomes limited to the amount of net investment income in 1991. From 1987 through 1990, only a percentage of the first $10,000 in interest in excess of net investment income is deductible.

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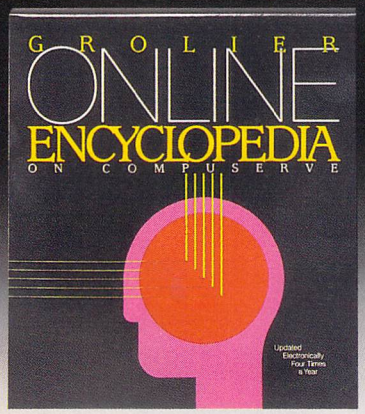

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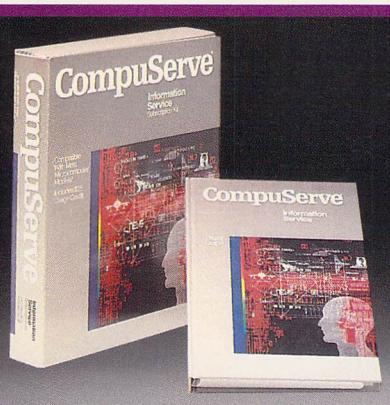

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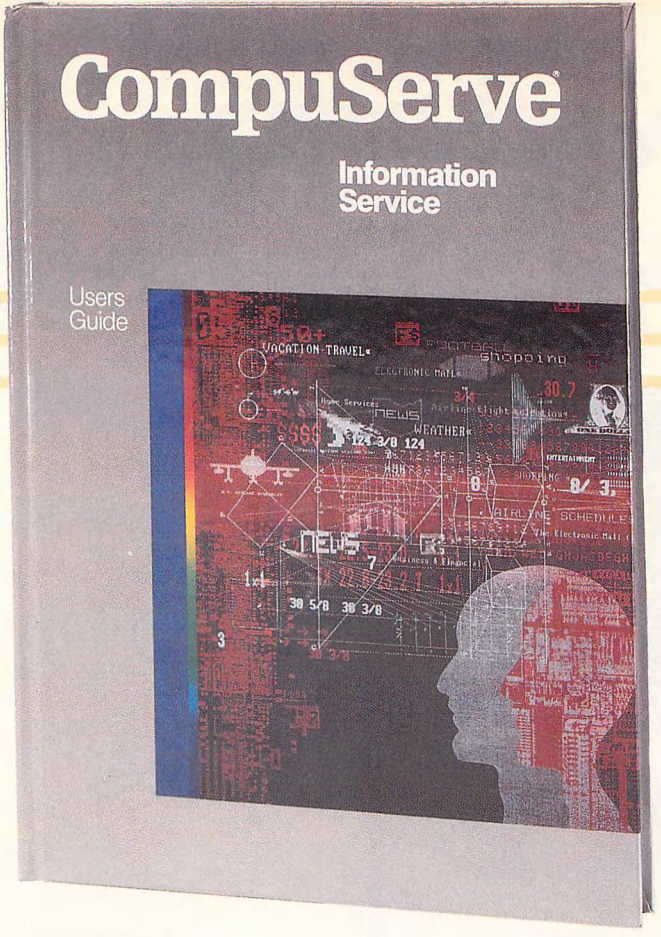

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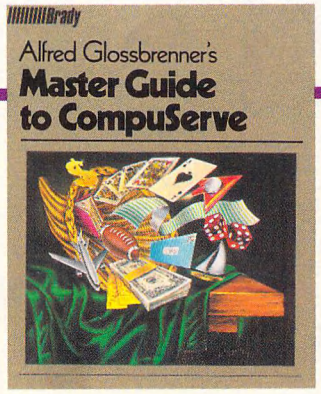

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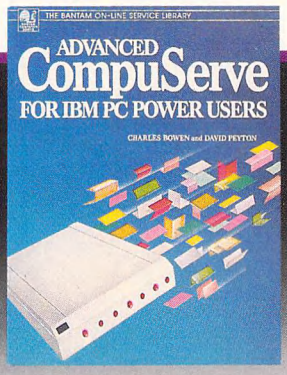

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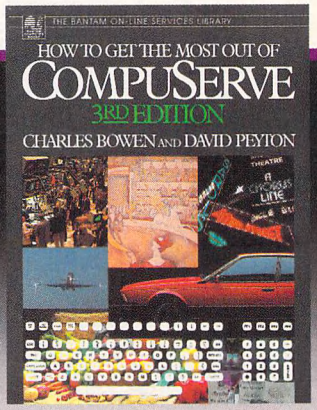

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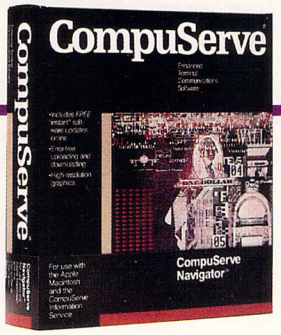

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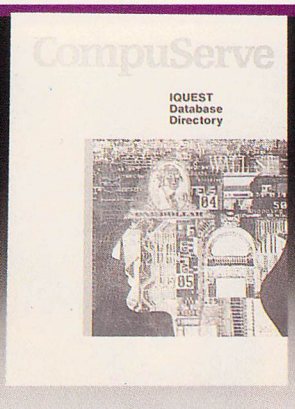

IQuest Database Directory

Use IQuest more efficiently and effectively with its own guide published by CompuServe. It provides a description of each database and is broken down by subject for easy reference. Anyone who uses IQuest will find this a valuable tool to speed research and conserve online connect time.

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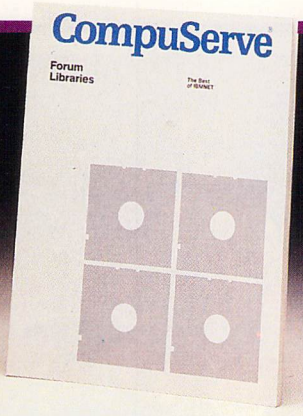

The Best of IBMNET

This Forrum software guide presents indexed descriptions of top offerings from IBMNET, already in its second edition. It catalogs hundreds of powerful utility programs and standalone applications available for public access on CompuServe. It pays for itself in connect time savings. Available while supplies last.

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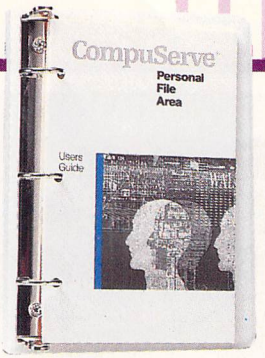

Personal File Area Guide

All subscribers receive 128K of storage in a personal file area. EasyPlex messages, Executive News Service clippings, files, "form" letters and more can be stored for 30 days without charge. File management programs, text editors, disk storage techniques, EasyPlex shortcuts and more are explained in this guide. Just what you need to use your storage area to its utmost potential. Includes: ICS, Terminal Parameter and EDIT Reference Cards. (Binder not included)

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New Adventure (751 Point Game)
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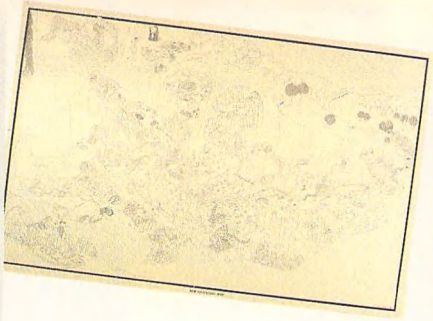

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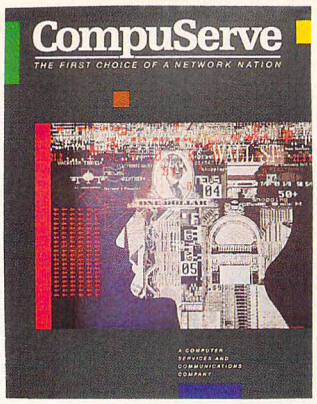
These exciting adventure maps are drawn in outline so participants can color their maps to match their imaginations. Both illustrate pathways and pitfalls one encounters in the *Original Adventure* and *New Adventure* Games on CompuServe.



***CompuServe: First Choice of a Network Nation* Poster**
World-renowned illustrator, Fred Otnes, produced the commissioned illustration that is the focal point for this full color, 23" x 30" poster. A perfect addition to a home computer alcove, den or office wall.
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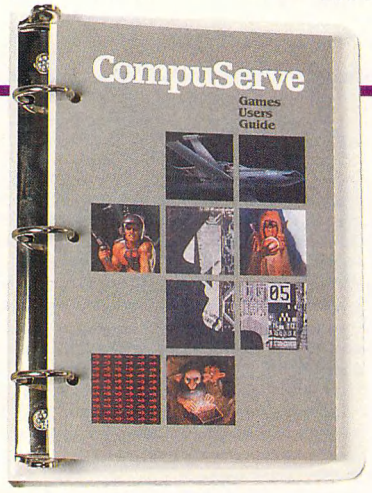

CompuServe Games Guide
(Second Edition)
This manual of the CompuServe game universe offers descriptions of all game offerings, rules, playing suggestions and a section on getting the most out of the Gamers' Forum. Recently updated. Guide comes in a sturdy vinyl binder.
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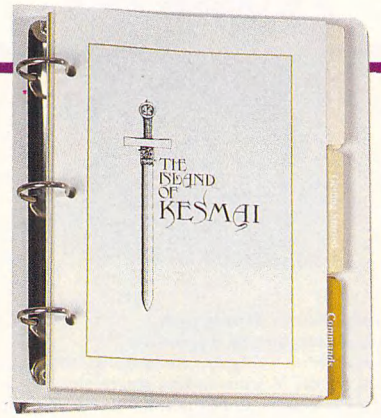

Island of Kesmai Guide
One of CompuServe's leading adventure games, *Island of Kesmai* is like no other online island you've ever visited. Prepare yourself with this comprehensive island atlas. Meet the inhabitants, learn their customs and social mores. You won't just bring the game's interactive features to greater light, you'll lead a longer life in your island role. Guide comes in a sturdy vinyl binder.
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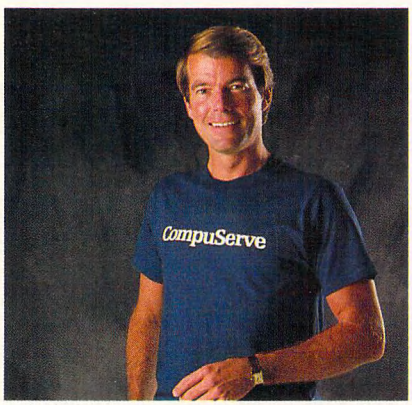

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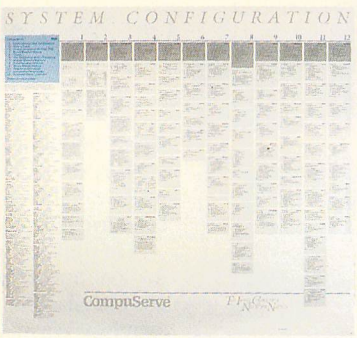

CompuServe Information Service System Configuration Wall Chart
This 35" x 33" poster (7/87 version) depicts all screens appearing on the Top Menu and all screens accessible from those initial choices. Extremely helpful for navigating around the service.

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Mounted within a clear lucite desk stand for high visibility, this contemporary timepiece is an attractive and useful addition to any computer workstation—home or office. It prominently displays the CompuServe logo and comes with a perpetual calendar in an adjacent window.

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CompuServe Information Service System Configuration Wall Chart
As a special incentive to place an online order during the Fingershopping Sale, any order over $25 placed between March 1 and April 30, 1988 will receive a (7/87 version) CompuServe Information Service System Configuration Wall Chart FREE. The chart will be included automatically in qualifying orders; there is no need to enter an order for your bonus item. Detailed descriptions and prices for all products available for Fingershopping can be found online. Enter GO ORDER at any Information Service prompt.

***British Legends* T-Shirt**
As you traverse the unfamiliar lands of *British Legends*, clad yourself in this attractive *British Legends* T-shirt. It's a great way to outwardly display your enthusiasm for this exciting role-playing game. Only available in red.

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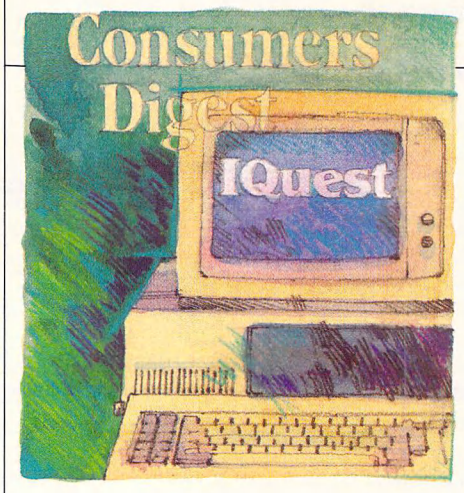

Consummate Consumer

Before many American consumers pull out their checkbooks for big-ticket items from appliances to automobiles, they consult the experts. One of the premier magazines they look to is *Consumers Digest,* and one of its senior editors uses CompuServe's databases to back up his reporters' research.

John F. Wasik began using CompuServe and other online services about five years ago. He knew little about computers or CompuServe, but soon realized how much information was available and how easily it could be retrieved.

He finds IQuest particularly useful for locating articles to serve as background material for *Consumers Digest* articles. Wasik also uses the financial databases for information on corporations. "I usually find more than I need to know. It's great for locating very specific information," he says.

Although he considers himself a "non-technical user," Wasik compiled this knowledge into a book published by John Wiley & Sons. *The Electronic Business Information Sourcebook* is one of the first guides to online information sources written especially for business people.

He encourages business people to be "infocentric" and to develop consistent sources of reliable information. Through the use of online databases, Wasik maintains that information-driven businesses can be more profitable.

—Cathryn Conroy

Audiometer Polices Loss of Hearing

With claims of hearing loss from industrial noise increasing worldwide, a small electronics firm in Glasgow, Scotland, has introduced an audiometer capable of catching cheaters.

The Automatic Self Reading Audiometer is the first comprehensive advancement in hearing test methods in 20 years, says Eric Gregg, managing director of Mercury Electronics, which manufactures the product. The system was developed during the past three years by Dr. Alastair MacLeod and a team from the Glasgow University department of physics.

With common testing methods, hearing-loss claimants can identify the pattern of sounds being emitted and thus support their false claims, says Gregg. ASRA is virtually foolproof because the system compares a full range of standard noise frequencies and intensities with a program that generates sounds in a random order almost impossible to detect, says Gregg. "The system alerts the operator to major differences between the hearing threshold of the random and standard tests and the response time."

Testing can be completed in less than 10 minutes, according to Gregg, depending on the speed of response. This makes comprehensive screening by mobile units possible on a cost-effective basis.

The ASRA 2001, for routine industrial and school testing, is in production. The $3,500 price includes an Amstrad 1512 personal computer (although the system can run on IBM PC-compatible computers). More sophisticated models for clinical use and for advanced otolaryngology (the study of hearing) are available for less than $5,600.

Commercial development is funded by Mercury Electronics with support from Glasgow University's Innovation Fund and Kelvin Technology Development Ltd., a preventure capital fund set up by the Scottish Development Agency and the universities of Glasgow and Strathclyde.

More details are available from Rifkind, Pondel & Parsons at 213/478-3523.

Information on issues of the hearing-impaired is available in CompuServe's Disabilities Forum (GO DISABILITIES) and the Handicapped Users' Database (GO HUD).

—John Edwards

Get Card Smarts

Remember registering for college classes? It involved long lines, course lists taped to cinderblock walls and hopes that your requests would be granted and your registration forms would not be lost in the university mail.

All that has changed for students at Chicago's Robert Morris College, a private institution with an enrollment of 2,000 and a curriculum emphasizing business administration, computerized business systems and health care. RMC is the first US education system to use a smart card for student and faculty applications, campus purchases, curriculum information and course registration.

The pilot project of the UltiCard is conducted by SmartCard International Inc. The card is a self-powered, pocket-size 64K computer system containing applications software designed by SCI in conjunction with Robert Morris College.

With the help of a counselor, each student selects a curriculum program, which is downloaded to the UltiCard via an SCI reader. Available courses for which the student is eligible are approved and the student is registered. Each student is issued an UltiCard containing course and class schedules, professors' names, curriculum plans and other data related to the student's academic program.

"Student registration is an example of where we expect to make great use of the smart card," says Richard D. Pickett, president of RMC. "The long lines and crowds associated with the registration process will diminish greatly."

SCI expects to market an educational smart card to institutions around the world, using the RMC pilot as a "watershed" testing ground for student and faculty applications, according to SCI President Arlen R. Lessin.

The University of Paris has had a smart card system in place for several years, but it is used almost exclusively for student registration. Development has been restricted because the cards have limited memory, are not reprogrammable and require an infrastructure of smart card readers.

The RMC smart card system will do much more. For instance, it can be used for purchasing books at campus stores, as an ID card and for matching employment skills at the college job placement office.

For information, contact SmartCard International Inc., 404 Park Ave., Suite 700, New York, NY 10016; 212/481-3700.

Fujitsu Obtains IBM's Protected Source Code

Fujitsu, one of the world's largest computer manufacturers, won a victory many US software developers have long lusted after: access to source code for IBM mainframe operating systems software.

According to *Software Magazine*, a computer industry trade publication, access to IBM source code will give the Japanese firm a significant advantage over US companies in the development of performance software—products designed to accelerate or otherwise improve the performance of IBM mainframe computers.

Software Magazine Editor Ed Bride estimates the market for mainframe performance software to be worth in excess of $5 billion. He explains that US firms adopted, without success, a "conciliatory" approach to IBM regarding access to the system source code.

The decision to grant Fujitsu access to the code was made by arbitrators in settling a five-year copyright battle between the two computer industry giants.

"This source code is much like a 'blueprint' of a computer system," Bride says. "Access to the source code makes it easier and faster for third-party vendors to design products that improve system performance.

"While IBM has been willing to help third-party firms develop applications software, such as accounting and inventory control packages, it has been far less willing to help firms develop performance software," Bride says.

"Performance software makes it possible for users to delay or avoid the purchase of a larger IBM computer. Clearly, this isn't in IBM's best interests," he says.

"We can expect US software firms, through their trade associations, to take a far more aggressive stance toward 'equal access' [to the IBM source code] than they have in the past," Bride says. "Whether their best efforts will be successful is anyone's guess."

For additional details on the IBM/Fujitsu connection, contact Sentry Publishing Co. Inc., 1900 West Park Dr., Westborough, MA 01581; 617/366-2031.

You can also find information on the entire spectrum of IBM computing by visiting one of CompuServe's IBM forums (GO IBM).

—John Edwards

Casino Chips Checked

A Portland, Maine, casino chip manufacturer is going high-tech.

The Burt Co., founded in 1895, is manufacturing a line of computer-readable chips to help gambling emporiums cut down on fraud. "Nothing will be done the same way it has been done," says owner John Kendall, 38. "The chips have not changed in 90 years."

Counterfeiting is a concern for casino regulators and operators. "As in any type of crime, the criminals become more sophisticated," says Fredric Gushin, assistant director of the New Jersey Division of Gaming Enforcement. "But counterfeiting is not that easy. It depends in a large measure on the diligence of personnel."

Kendall's new technology uses bar codes stamped along the 1/8-inch sides of the chips. Using a bar-code scanner available through the Burt Co., a casino cashier can verify that a chip's bar code is the same as the casino's.

The scanner also can feed the information into a computer to keep a running tab of the casino's cash position after each transaction, says Kendall.

"Casinos lose thousands of dollars to people using counterfeit chips because the chips are changed into money first and then checked and counted," Kendall says. "With this new method, the chips can be validated, sorted and counted in one move."

Career Strategies

Making a career choice can seem more like a game of chance than a carefully planned strategy, but computer-age techniques can help.

Career Navigator from Drake Beam Morin Inc. is a computer-powered job-search system. Retailing for $95, the package contains an extensive job-search handbook and four disks. It is an interactive and individualized program providing motivational and practical feedback. The developers researched psychological studies of employers and job candidates to devise interview questions and tips on such problems as salary negotiation.

Career Navigator features self-assessment exercises to develop a job objective, job-search skills (such as interviewing, networking, resume writing and negotiating), creation and storage of up to five resumes and 10 cover letters, a file of up to 100 names and addresses for follow-up mailings and a permanent personal database for lifetime updates and reference.

Getting organized and developing a strategic campaign is half the battle, and the developers of Career Navigator say this program will do that automatically.

Career Navigator is available for the IBM PC, PC-XT, PC-AT and compatibles.

For information on Career Navigator, contact Drake Beam Morin Inc., 100 Park Ave., New York, NY 10017; 212/692-7700. The program can be ordered by calling 800/345-JOBS (nationwide) or 301/634-1007 (in Maryland).

—Cathryn Conroy

Get Computer Industry News

Online Today Daily Edition's Monitor section keeps you abreast of the latest computer and information industry news. Stories are added several times each day and the hot items are highlighted on our front page, OLT-1. A week's worth of recent news is always available for review (OLT-20). To read today's news, type GO OLT-90 at any CompuServe Information Service prompt.

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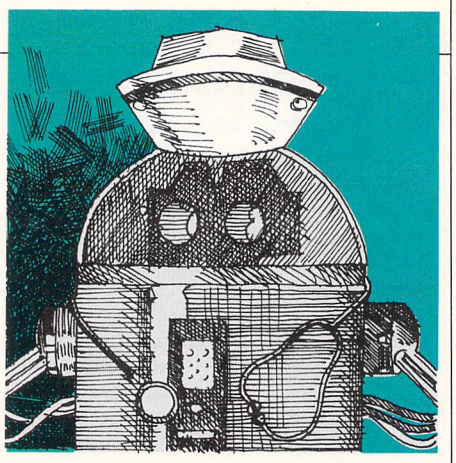
Recent News	**OLT-20**
Reporting News to Us	**OLT-352**
Special Reports	**OLT-2000**
Today's News	**OLT-90**

Nurse, Angel or Robot?

Some patients at Danbury Hospital in Danbury, Conn., receive aid and comfort from an unusual source—a robot nurse. The unit, dubbed Helpmate, is undergoing trials to determine if the time is ripe for an electronic angel of mercy.

"It's a sophisticated bit of machinery," says Joseph F. Engelberger, 62, a pioneer robot researcher and president of Transitions Research Corp., a Danbury-based company he helped found in 1984 to develop robots for use in the service field and home. A commercial robot Engelberger installed at a General Motors plant in 1961 is on display at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.



Helpmate's current mission is modest: to deliver meals from the hospital commissary to the nurses' stations. In the future, however, Engelberger envisions the robot rolling through corridors, not only delivering meals to patients on special diets, but also collecting samples for the laboratory, retrieving medical records and walking patients. The robot will understand simple commands, use elevators and navigate busy avenues.

"The machine has to be in communication with the nurses. The robot must know the whole hospital, and it has to 'see' so it doesn't bump into anyone. It has a map of the hospital in its 'brain' and a sensory system," Engelberger says.

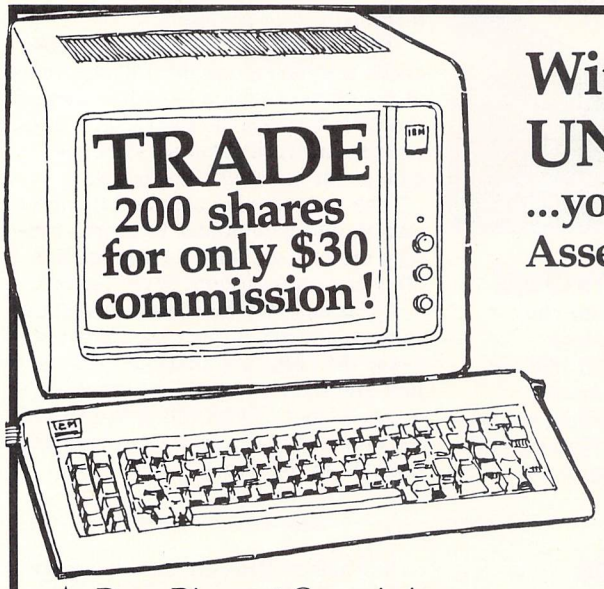
Helpmate, which stands 5 feet tall and weighs 350 pounds, may be the forerunner of a generation of robots tackling commercial applications. For instance, Engelberger's company developed a commercial cleaning machine that tested successfully in schools. The unit uses sensitive hearing and optical systems, including infrared, that enable it to avoid bumping into objects or people.

The company's main project is development of a household robot. Engelberger hopes to build a prototype robot and make such a system available by 1991.

"When this thing works, it's going to be a big-ticket luxury product the likes of which haven't been seen since the automobile for mass appeal," he says. "In 1991, you'll have to decide, 'Do I get another Mercedes or a servant.' In 1995, it's going to be, 'Do I get another Volkswagen or buy a servant?' "

Further details are available from Transitions Research Corp. at 203/798-8988.

—John Edwards



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'Helping Hands' Abound Online

Most online newcomers like to feel they are ready to navigate the ever-expanding CompuServe system. But no matter how prepared you think you are, you'll find there are always things you need to learn by experience.

There's no way to become thoroughly knowledgeable about CompuServe unless you use it. One of the best uses you can make of CompuServe in the beginning is to search out those online areas where help is available.

While online help is available just about everywhere on the system, it's concentrated in an area listed under a Help menu, also known as the Subscriber Assistance menu.

You'll find the Help menu just off the familiar Top menu, which is the menu most subscribers see when they first access the system. Subscriber Assistance is Option 1 on this menu. Or just type GO HELP at any system prompt.

This Subscriber Assistance menu is a door to a variety of useful information. Become familiar with this menu for future reference. One of the options, the online tour, will help you to become proficient in using the system.

You probably had the option of taking the tour as part of your sign-up procedure. If you bypassed the tour in your haste to get online and get started with CompuServe, it's not too late to take the tour. In fact, it's highly recommended.

The tour is actually an overview of the major services on CompuServe. You're not actually taken to the services themselves. Instead, you're presented with a series of textfiles describing the services. When you find one along the way you'd like to investigate more thoroughly, you can choose to read more about that particular service before continuing the tour. At any point in the tour, you can return to the Subscriber Assistance menu.

A command summary is yet another feature of the Help menu. You may recall the short course in navigational commands you received when you signed on the first time. If you have no printed documentation outlining CompuServe commands, here's the place where you can review those commands anytime you think you need a refresher course.

In addition, the command summary area gives concise explanations of the

menu structures and important GO commands, explanations of menu flags, navigational menu commands, the use of control characters on the system and more.

Telephone access to CompuServe can sometimes be confusing, especially if you want to log onto CompuServe while traveling. The Telephone Access Numbers option from this Help menu answers frequently asked questions about US and international telephone access.

In addition, you'll find log-on and log-off instructions, a list of telephone access numbers, a list of CompuServe node abbreviations, and discussions about busy signals and network problems that may arise and what to do about them. "Ask Customer Service" is also an option on this menu.

From the Ask Customer Service sub-menu, you'll find a database of frequently asked questions and their answers. Chances are, most, if not all, of your questions appear in this database. To access it, type GO QUESTIONS at any prompt to access the Online Question and Answer database.

Also on the Ask Customer Service menu is the Feedback area where you can send specific questions to Customer Service or outline a specific problem you may be having with the system. Your queries to Feedback are answered via EasyPlex usually within a day or two.

You can use the Help menu as a starting place and then move onto an area where you can view or change your user profile. Once you are at the Profile menu, you can change your terminal settings, change your password, read password security guidelines, change your billing options or change your billing address.

Billing is yet another option from the Subscriber Assistance or Help menu. The Billing submenu lists current CompuServe rates. You can review your own online charges from this menu and read about CompuServe's general billing policies.

CompuServe offers books, pamphlets and other printed materials to help you make your online time more efficient. You can order these publications online by choosing the Order from CompuServe option from the Subscriber Assistance menu. You may browse the database of descriptions before deciding what, if anything, to order. Because of the way the ordering system is constructed, it's virtually impossible to order something accidentally.

Also from the Help menu, you can access *Online Today Daily Edition*, CompuServe's online publication with news and columns of interest to a wide variety of subscribers. You'll find the gateway to a file that describes CompuServe's rules of operation, the company's copyright policy and service agreement. Your connect time is credited while you're in this area. Another selection from the menu will take you to CompuServe's Subscriber Directory where you may search for other users based on their names and where they live.

All-in-all, there's a wealth of important information for new users on this Subscriber Assistance menu. Each new user ought to stop here to get an overview of the system, to learn how to make the best use of this communications medium.

David Peyton co-authored How to Get the Most Out of CompuServe *and* CompuServe for IBM PC Power Users. *His CompuServe User ID number is 76703,244.*

Read Online Columns

When you want to read opinions behind the latest computer and information industry news, turn to *Online Today Daily Edition's* Columns. You'll find insights, witticisms, user tips and more by leading computer journalists. To read any of the columns, type GO OLT-110 at any CompuServe Information Service prompt.

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The Price is Right

Financial Freeware, Shareware Available in Forums

by Cathryn Conroy

Free. It has a nice ring to it. And free is the price of excellent financial programs waiting for you in the Investors' Forum, the Lotus Integrated Products Forum and the NAIC Forum.

Commonly called "freeware," these specialized utilities are written by users who see a need for a simpler operation not offered by the big commercial programs, or for which there is a charge. Freeware programs are small and not especially powerful. But they are easily accessible and the price is right.

"Freeware is an unusual phenomenon," says Aubrey Botsford of Lotus Development Corp. and the Lotus Integrated Products Forum. "We don't see this in other areas, such as book publishing or car manufacturing. Consequently, it tends to create a special feeling of people sharing with one another."

One of the benefits of the freeware phenomenon is the support that accompanies the programs. In most cases, the authors are active forum members who provide advice and online documentation to users of their programs. "Access to the authors is the main selling point," explains Miguel Caldera, forum administrator of the Lotus Integrated Products Forum.

Freeware is also unusual in that most authors are open to suggestions for improvements or revisions. In many cases, they will allow a user to take the program and build on it. "While many of the freeware programs lack the bells and whistles and sophistication of their commercial counterparts, if they are selected carefully you can develop a library of analysis programs with minimal expenditure—thus leaving more money for investing," says Mike Pietruk, forum administrator of the Investors' Forum. He adds that asking fellow forum members is a good way to find freeware gems.

A cousin of freeware is "shareware," for which the user pays the software author a fee if he likes the program and plans to use it. Obviously, the honor code is important.

Following are some financial freeware and shareware gems selected by the three forum administrators:

Investors' Forum (GO INVFORUM)

PFROI.ARC (Data Library 1, Shareware): This powerful, full-function portfolio manager for the IBM PC and compatible computers is a prime example of where the concept of shareware works both for authors and users. The program handles stocks, bonds, mutual funds, CDs and depreciable assets. Robert Hobbs provides continual online support of his package plus frequent updates. Once the software is registered, Hobbs will provide updates via the mail, obviating the need for further downloading.

STKPG2.BNY (DL1, Shareware): Stock Tracking System is a comprehensive stock portfolio tracking, reporting and graphic system for the Apple II family of computers. Online documentation describes how to incorporate quote data from CompuServe, eliminating the need for tedious manual entry.

IF40.ARC (DL5, Shareware): Infidelity automates the process for Fidelity customers to access their "FAST" 800 system. Designed for the IBM PC and compatibles, the program must be used with a Hayes or compatible modem.

WILL.ARC (DL7, Freeware): Everyone should have a will, and this program makes creating one a lot easier for IBM PC users. The program prints out a "last will and testament" that is valid when signed by three witnesses. Taken from a 1980 *Consumer Reports* article, the program asks the user only to answer the prompts and specify the printer width.

ANALYST.ARC (DL6, Shareware): The Home Financing Analyst for the IBM PC and compatibles features cost allocation, balloon payments, renting vs. ownership benefits and more. The data input files may be saved for future runs, so there is no need to re-key the data.

Lotus Integrated Products Forum (GO LOTUSA)

These freeware programs are located in Data Library 8:

PAYROLL.ARC (for use with Lotus 1-2-3): The Macro Automated Payroll Worksheet calculates payroll and stores employee data in a database. Automatic calculation of FICA and federal taxes is provided, and the macros make it easy to use.

GL.WKS (for use with Lotus 1-2-3 and Symphony): This is the complete General Ledger model that was presented in *Lotus* magazine's accounting column in 1986 (documentation can be found in the June through September issues). There are no macros to invoke.

FINAID.ARC: The program includes the Mortgage and Loan Analyzer for quickly and easily calculating of monthly or annual amortization schedules, constructing personalized rate, payment or principal tables, analyzing a loan prepayment or calculating the after-tax effects of refinancing.

MJ's Checkbook is a checkbook transaction register for keeping track of the checkbook balance. There is an interesting feature: a bar chart right in the spreadsheet.

NAIC Forum (GO NAIC)

These freeware programs are located in Data Library 8:

AWEVAL.BNY: This is an AppleWorks spreadsheet template to perform stock evaluation. Data can be easily collected using the program AWEVAL.LIB (also in DL8).

STKWCH.BNY: STOCKWATCH is an AppleWorks spreadsheet that helps manage a portfolio. Stocks are entered along with the estimated low and high prices. The list can then be arranged into buy/hold/sell categories. Documentation for the program is in STKWCH.DOC. (STKWCH.IMG is also available for use with VIDTEX.)

AWPERT.BNY: This is an AppleWorks spreadsheet to perform portfolio evaluation using the NAIC Portfolio Evaluation Review Technique. This program simplifies the continuing record of these figures. Documentation can be found in AWPERT.DOC. (AWPERT.IMG is also available for use with VIDTEX).

GDSSG2.BNY: This file contains a spreadsheet template (SSG2.WK1), a documentation file (SSG2.DOC) and an input for a "take-to-the-library" form when you copy data from Standard & Poor's (SSG2.INP). Graphs and projections using linear regression are included.

NAIC.WK1: This is Bill Morrow's and Ralph Seeger's stock-selection guide and spreadsheet for Lotus 1-2-3. Adapted and enhanced from an Apple II VisiCalc spreadsheet, the program is a good representation of the NAIC guide. It produces graphs of revenues, net before taxes and earnings per share.

Cathryn Conroy, an Online Today *contributing editor who writes frequently on business topics, is based in Gaithersburg, Md. Her CompuServe User ID number is 70007,417.*

Ticker Symbol Search Simplified

Users of CompuServe financial services can now look up ticker symbols and information on market indexes, mutual funds and stock performance from within many online databases through the new feature *NAME.

Ticker symbols are needed before a user can access stock information. In the past, users in need of a ticker symbol had to leave the database to run the CUSIP program, which carries a 25-cent surcharge for each retrieval. The *NAME feature carries no surcharge.

"What we've done now is put that ability to search for a ticker symbol inside the program so you never have to leave it," says J. David Edwards, CompuServe financial products specialist. *NAME is presently available within several financial databases and will eventually be universally available.

The new feature offers information on market indexes, mutual funds and stock performance by using QuickQuote. MicroQuote offers this information in addition to debts and options. To access this information, type * at the Issue prompt for a submenu. Select Option 1 for information on market indexes, Option 2 for information on mutual funds, or Option 3 for information on stocks.

Market indexes measure the performance of different stock groups, serving as gauges for overall market performance. Mutual fund and stock listings provide detailed price information, including name of index or fund; volume; high, low and most recent price; change; and date the information was last updated.

It's easy to use *NAME to find an unknown ticker symbol. At the Issue prompt, type * followed by the first word in the company name.

The service will state the number of issues beginning with the desired word and offer to provide a complete listing of those company names. For example, the word "American" would prompt an offer to provide a listing of all 186 stock issues beginning with the word "American."

At this point, the number of options can be narrowed by selecting market indicators, mutual funds or stocks. If you select stocks, the list is reduced to 155 issues found. Next, you can list the issues found, continue the search or end the search. By continuing the search, you may type additional characters to further narrow the options.

Typing a space and then T lists options including AT&T, American Telecommunications and American Travelers Corp. Type the option number at the prompt to retrieve your quote.

Within financial databases not offering the *NAME feature, a user can obtain ticker symbol information by typing /GO SYMBOLS, then selecting menu Option 1, "Search for Company Name, Ticker Symbol or CUSIP."

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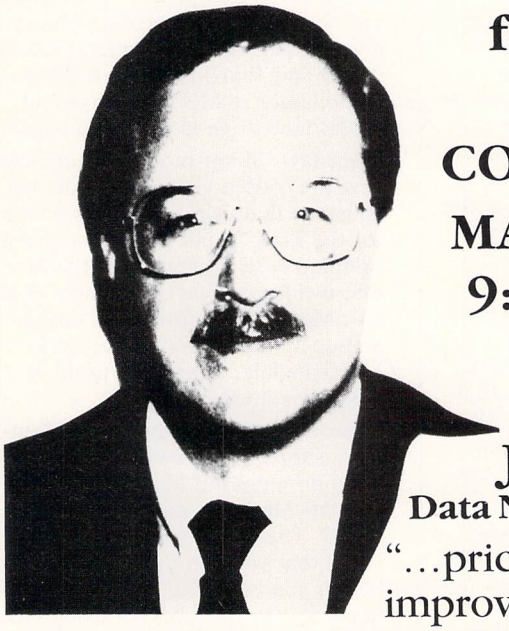

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Apple II, Mac Users Have Something to Share

By Michael Naver

Those comforting words—you are not alone—now carry more meaning for Apple II and Macintosh users, for a new source of hardware and software support is available to them via the Apple Vendors Forum (GO APPVEN).

Vendors represented in this new forum market support networking software, database programs, programming tools, tape and hard drives and other products for these computers.

Forum Administrator Neil Shapiro sees the forum as a reflection of the growing number of Macintosh business users, although some of the vendors also support the Apple II series.

"A number of manufacturers have supported Apple and Macintosh products on the MAUG forums (Micronetworked Apple Users Group), and we expect that to continue," Shapiro explains. "Some, however, will be able to better use data libraries and message areas on this new forum because of the interest in their product lines. Simply put, they became so popular that they needed more online space."

The forum gives users of these products a chance to communicate on a personal level with the vendors. "So many other aspects of communication are done impersonally," Shapiro says.

The concept of the Apple Vendors Forum is similar to that of the PC Vendors Forum, according to Sharon Baker, CompuServe product manager. "This is an opportunity for vendors of products for Mac and Apple II to share a forum. Some of the vendors also market products for IBM PCs and are represented in the PC Vendors Forum," Baker says.

A closer look at the vendors in the Apple Vendors Forum follows:

- **Acius**—The company markets a relational database management program for the Macintosh called Fourth Dimension and a multi-user version called 4D Runtime. Technical staff use the forum to answer online questions, such as how and where to get the products and how to use them. In the data library you'll find sample databases, usage tips, advice on operation and more.
- **Ann Arbor Softworks**—The forum supports Fullpaint, a popular paint program for the Mac, and Fullwrite Professional, a new, advanced word processor for the Mac.
- **CE Software**—The company markets a series of products for the Mac, including QuicKeys, CalendarMaker, MacBILLBOARD, DiskTop, MockPackage+ and MassCopier. It has been marketing Apple II and Mac products since 1984. Demos and latest shareware versions of some products are available online along with documents, templates, key sets, and technical- and customer-support notices. Forum members are encouraged to upload their own files.
- **First Class Peripherals**—Hard disk and tape drives with the Sider brand name for the Apple II and Mac series are supported here, with technical notes, software updates and backup utilities supplied in the data library and message areas. Products include 20MB and 40MB hard drives and a combination 40MB hard drive and 60MB tape drive in the same housing.
- **Mainstay**—Major products supported here are VIP, a visual programming language that uses a graphics editor for the Mac; Think'n Time, a visually oriented desk organizer for the Mac that includes project lists and a calendar; MacFlow, a flow chart design and documentation product; and MacSchedule, a fast way to draw schedules on the screen.
- **Stone Edge Technologies**—This company supports the database management program DB Master version 5 and DB Master version 5 Professional. The forum offers a working demo that you can download to try before you buy. You'll find technical notes and suggestions for using DB Master and converting data from other types of files. File templates contributed by the company and forum members are available.
- **Survivor Software**—The maker of MacMoney, a personal and small business financial management program, offers support via a working demo, helpful hints and technical assistance. A newsletter is available to registered users. New version announcements and notes of interest are posted as needed. Members can upload their own solutions to financial transactions and templates for other programs (i.e., spreadsheet macros) that use MacMoney-exported data.
- **Tops**—This division of Sun Microsystems produces the TOPS line of local area networking products for IBM PCs, Macintosh and Unix-based systems. It offers technical support and answers questions about such topics as AppleTalk and cabling, and offers software updates, copies of documentation and press releases for users to download. TOPS plans online conferences with guest speakers from the company. TOPS is also represented on the PC Vendors Forum.

It's all there when you GO APPVEN.

Michael Naver of Baltimore, Md., edits a newsletter advising corporate communicators and public relations counselors on uses of new technology. His CompuServe User ID number is 70007,621.

Gift of Time

Online Today offers subscribers the chance to win 10 hours of standard service connect time (a $60 value) by writing a 200-word essay on how they use CompuServe's Information Service.

The essay should be typed, double-spaced and sent to *Online Today*, CompuServe Incorporated, 5000 Arlington Centre Blvd., P.O. Box 20212, Columbus, OH 43220, or via an EasyPlex message to 70003,3246. Please include your full name, address and User ID number.

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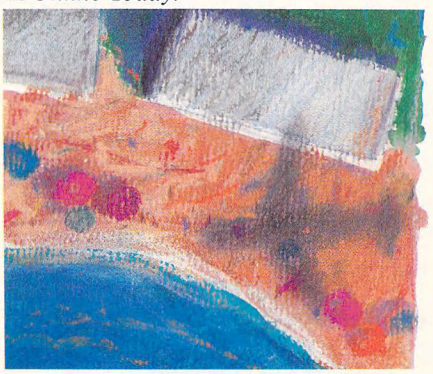

Arranging Destinations Online

Through CompuServe, I have become my own travel agent.

I used CompuServe to plan two trips to Europe during the past three years. I checked airfares and schedules to arrange the best flights through Travelshopper. The Worldwide Hotel Guide was invaluable for finding hotel accommodations.

During a trip to Great Britain, much of the enjoyment of traveling was in making the arrangements myself. I look forward to my next trip, and I will rely on CompuServe for my travel needs.

Donald H. Wilcox
Arvada, Colo.

Ask Customer Service

Q: What services does CompuServe offer to allow me to communicate instantaneously with other subscribers?

A: The CB Simulator is perhaps the most popular of CompuServe's interactive communications services, but you can also have "live" conversations in the forum conference mode, The Convention Center and even in some of the multiplayer games, such as *MegaWars*, *The Island of Kesmai* and *You Guessed It!* (GO MEGA1, GO KESMAI, GO YGI).

Q: While in the CB Simulator, my typing is often interrupted by someone else's message on the screen. Is there any way around this problem?

A: Yes. At any time (even outside of the conference products), you can redisplay the line you have typed by pressing CONTROL-V.

Q: How can I see the names of all subscribers accessing the conference area?

A: To see a list of the other subscribers, just type the /USERS command at the begining of a blank line. The resulting display will list the User ID number and job number of everyone else in the conference area.

Q: Suppose I wanted to have a one-on-one conversation?

A: First, you have to know the job number of the person you wish to speak with. You can find this information with the /USERS command. Then enter the /TALK # command, where # is the job number of the person you are interested in holding a private conversation with. That person will receive a message that you are trying to contact him or her. As soon as that person types /TALK with your job number, you will be in a private conversation.

Q: What does GA or ... mean at the end of a line during a conference?

A: Three periods in a row signals the other participants in the conference that you are not yet finished typing your message. When you finish, it is polite to type GA at the end of a line or by itself to mean "Go Ahead." The ... message can also be used in CB, but GA is not used because CB is more informal than conference.

Q: Are there any changes or additions to the CB commands?

A: To find out what city and state a node is located in, type /NODE <XXX> where XXX is the three-letter node abbreviation. For example, /NODE WBR would tell you that node WBR is located in Columbus, Ohio. If you don't know which node a subscriber is accessing through, type /USERS. If you don't want to converse with another subscriber, type /SQUELCH followed by the person's User ID number, job number or handle. To unsquelch, type /SQUELCH alone. The /SQUELCH command also will work in the forum conference areas.

Q: If I am in /TALK mode with someone privately in CB or conference, how do we end our private conversation and go back to the open channel?

A: Both members of the private conversation must type /BREAK to end the conversation and return to the open channel.

—Mike Blackwell and Will Cowman

These answers and more are available in Customer Service's Question & Answer Database. You can find answers to questions about billing, using the Personal File area, setting up a Personal Menu and more. GO QUESTIONS

Read CompuServe News

Online Today Daily Edition covers the online community. Whether it's a forum conference announcement, a special promotion or a new product introduction, you can read all about it in the *Daily Edition*. To access news about the CompuServe community, type GO OLT-50 at any CompuServe Information Service prompt.

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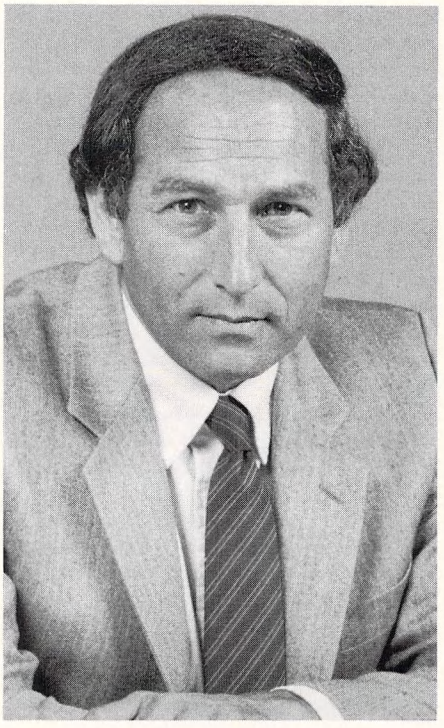
Television Show's Transcripts Chronicle Computer Age

A Macintosh-DOS connection, local area networks, laser printers and Adam Osborne are only a few of the topics subscribers can read about in "The Computer Chronicles," an online database of transcripts from the PBS television show by the same name.

Covering the field of personal computing, the television show is in its fifth season on PBS and is carried on more than 150 PBS stations nationwide. For the transcripts offered through CompuServe, each show has been divided into segments. You can read each segment online, or you can download segments or the entire program. Each "Chronicles" program is listed by the main topic covered and by the date the program was issued to PBS stations.

In addition to a main topic, each program includes a weekly summary of news events in the personal computer industry and a weekly software review. There's also a "location report," live coverage of an interesting use of computers or an interview with a well-known industry source.

The series, hosted by Stewart Cheifet, is produced in San Mateo, Calif., just north of Silicon Valley. Top names in the microcomputer field make regular appearances. Gary Kildall, creator of CP/M and chairman of Digital Research, and George Morrow, former chairman of Morrow Design—and currently chief scientist with Nestar, serve as cohosts. The show's regular analyst is Jan Lewis, formerly of the Palo Alto Research Group. Paul Schindler, senior editor of *Information Week* magazine, reviews software. Wendy Woods, publisher of "Newsbytes," is the regular field reporter.



Hosting 'Chronicles': *Cheifet*

To find out about the transcripts, select Option 2, "Recent Program Highlights," from the "Computer Chronicles" main menu. Here, you'll find one-paragraph summaries of each program. For example, the program "Macintosh Business Software" includes an introduction to the Macintosh, a report on how a San Francisco law firm uses the Macintosh for everything from basic accounting tasks to legal documents, an interview with Heidi Roizen, president of T/Maker Co., the announcement of the Video Works II package, an update on Multifinder, software reviews and more.

In addition to covering current news items, the "Computer Chronicles" series analyzes changes in the computer market. The two-part program "Business Applications/Spreadsheets," for example, begins with mention of VisiCalc, the spreadsheet program that revolutionized the personal computer industry in the early 1980s. Since VisiCalc is largely gone now, the program continues on the theme and talks about Lotus 1-2-3 and the new generation of sophisticated spreadsheet software for the IBM PC and Macintosh.

There are several ways to download material from the "Computer Chronicles." Subscribers using CompuServe's Professional Connection or VIDTEX can open the computer's capture buffer before scrolling "Chronicles" transcripts across the screen. Professional Connection users should press Function Key 6 to open and close the capture buffer.

Apple, Atari, Tandy Color Computer, and TRS80 III and IV owners using CompuServe should press the Meta key and the letter O to open the buffer and Meta-C to close it. The Meta key is usually the only one on the keyboard with a symbol instead of a letter or number. Check your VIDTEX manual for complete downloading and capture buffer instructions.

At a menu page, you can use the scroll command to read the entire article. At the prompt, type: SCROLL ALL to scroll through all the pages in the article. You can also use the command SCROLL N (where N is the number of pages you wish to scroll).

For trends and general information about the personal computer industry or to catch up on parts of the PBS "Computer Chronicles" series, type GO OLT-110 and select item 10.

Sample Products in Adobe Forum

Taking a product for a "test drive" is one of the benefits offered to members of the Adobe Forum, the latest addition to CompuServe's desktop publishing forums.

Members can download a screen font, test it by creating a document and go to a service bureau to see the output. "Since the fonts are used in all phases of desktop publishing—from applications to printers—the fact that they are available online reinforces our commitment to the industry," says Esther Kletter, administrator of the Adobe Forum.

Sponsored by Adobe, the forum functions as an extension of Adobe's customer service. Most of the information that is available at Adobe is also offered online through the forum as an additional source of support.

Adobe's technical support staff provides online support for such products as PostScript, Adobe Illustrator and Adobe Type Library. Forum members can get answers to questions about Adobe products and services. They can also download sample PostScript programs, get supplements to the PostScript Language Reference Manual, and read about Adobe courses and training schedules. Supplements to the PostScript language reference manual, and lists of printers and software packages that support PostScript are also available.

Members can get announcements of new products and the latest information about desktop publishing. To access the Adobe Forum, type GO ADOBE at any prompt on the CompuServe Information Service.

Borland Forum Known for Friendly Advice

by Cathryn Conroy

The name Borland International conjures up accurate images of a huge conglomerate with offices worldwide. But, because of its online support services, friendly advice and customer support, the Scotts Valley, Calif.-based company is as accessible as your modem.

For information about the company and its products, type GO BORLAND to view a menu that includes information on the entire software line, common questions and answers, employment opportunities and background information on the company.

Also online are the Borland Applications Forum (GO BORAPP) and the Borland Programming Forum A (GO BPROGA), which provide customers a chance for personal interaction with the software developers, customer-support personnel and other Borland users.

Look in the Borland Programming Forum A for tips, techniques and other information related to the use of software, particularly Turbo Pascal, Turbo BASIC and related "toolboxes." The Borland Programming Forum B (GO BPROGB) supports Turbo C and Turbo Prolog. See the Borland Applications Forum, designed primarily for business users, for technical support of SideKick, Reflex, Turbo Lightning and other applications programs.

SideKick is a desktop productivity software program for the IBM PC and compatible computers and the Apple Macintosh. It is a RAM-resident, integrated utilities program that includes an appointment calendar, calculator, notepad, telephone directory with autodialing and an ASCII conversion table.

Reflex, the Analyst, is a database management system for IBM computers and compatibles that offers instant graphics analyses of data with five views: Form View, for creating custom-designed entry forms for data; List View, which puts the data in tabular form; Graph View, which displays instant interactive graphics representations, including scatter plots and line, bar, cumulative bar and pie charts; CrossTab View, which offers cross-referenced pictures of the links and relationships hidden in the data; and Report View, for generating everything from mailing labels to sophisticated reports.

Turbo Lightning is a RAM-resident, look-up system for IBM PCs and compatibles that offers instant access to information. It provides the user with the *Random House Dictionary* and *Random House Thesaurus* in a hard-disk or floppy-drive version. Other products supported in the Borland Applications Forum are Eureka: The Solver, SuperKey, Reflex for the Mac, Reflex Plus, Paradox, Quattro and a new product called Sprint.

An English-like command structure that can emulate the commands of WordStar and WordPerfect makes Sprint an easy-to-use word processing program. Files can be shared among other word processing programs.

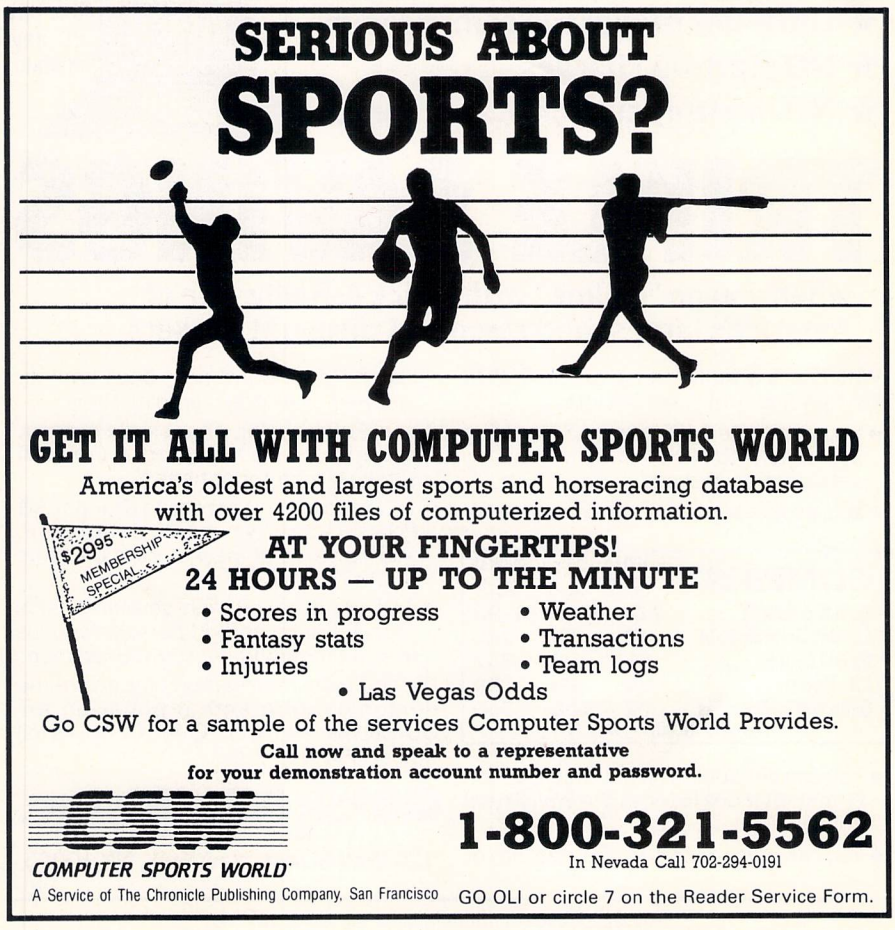
Members help members with questions—sometimes responding faster than the Borland technical support team, which responds within a day. Another advantage of the Borland Applications Forum is that public-domain programs for enhancing Borland products, usually written by forum members, can be easily distributed to all.

The Borland Applications Forum, the Borland Programming Forum A and the Borland Programming Forum B feature "Team Borland," a group of specially selected members who are interested in supporting a Borland product. To facilitate their support, the company sends information to the team, which in turn assists with the many online inquiries.

In addition to its parlaying of quick advice, the forum is known for its friendly atmosphere. Larry Kraft, primary forum administrator of the Borland Programming Forum A, helped to organize the third annual Borland-sponsored CompuServe forum party held on Aug. 29, 1987. About 50 forum members attended the party to see the faces behind the names of forum members. "It definitely increases the camaraderie among regular forum members," says Kraft.

Chris Park, director of product support at Borland, says that the company educates its customers in a unique way through CompuServe: "They can get information online about all facets of a product and use what they've learned to get maximum use from that product."

Cathryn Conroy is a contributing editor of Online Today. *Her CompuServe User ID number is 70007,417.*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MAUG Reorganizes into Eight Forums

by James Moran

"I like the idea of going directly to the vendor with a question and the ease of picking up information about a product without wading through countless messages of little or no interest," says MAUG Forum user Dave Gair.

These comments refer to the MAUG reorganization that took place in December. In that major change, MAUG expanded to eight separate forums. While some of the old forums continue, a few changes and additions were made to the quick reference words for the MAUG area.

Sharon Baker, product manager, says of the changes, "CompuServe recognized the need for expanded support for the Macintosh and other Apple machines. While adding new forums, we took the opportunity to revamp existing MAUG navigational commands." Baker says these and other changes will prepare the forums for other enhancements in the future.

There are three active forums specifically for Macintosh users. MACPRO, the Macintosh Personal Productivity Forum, is dedicated to topics such as word processing, programming and desktop publishing. MACFUN, the Macintosh Arts and Entertainment Forum, concentrates on art, music, education and other creative pastimes. MACBIZ is still the Macintosh Business Users' Forum and it continues to be the meeting place for office and professional users of the Macintosh.

Apple II and III users will find that their forum is still in place but with the quick reference word changed to APPTWO.

The Apple Vendors' Forum (GO APPVEN) has generated much enthusiasm. With online support from many well-known hardware and software developers, its popularity is sure to result in expanded vendor interest.

The command GO APPHYPER (or GO STACKWARE) takes you to the HyperCard Forum, specializing in Apple's HyperCard program and features discussions on hypertext and similar products.

Two continuing forums round out the MAUG reorganization. The Apple Developers' Forum (GO APPDEV) still is dedicated to expert programming and development for all Apple computers. And the Apple User Groups' Forum continues to be the place to discuss user-group activities or to volunteer your help to other groups.

Of course, MAUG users will have the final word on the success of the reorganization but the reaction has been positive. In an earlier interview with *Online Today*, MAUG founder and Forum Administrator Neil Shapiro said, "One of the best things about the MAUG Forums is the chance to meet people who try to help each other. We're not really a hardware forum; we're a "people" forum. It just so happens that all the people on the forum have the same kind of hardware. We've always tried to make MAUG a friendly spot to meet people who share at least some of your interests."

While the changes to MAUG certainly are substantial, Shapiro's comments put a new light on the old saying, "the more things change, the more they stay the same."

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Merrill Lynch	86	193	357
E.F. Hutton	84	180	399
Dean Witter Reynolds	72	180	360

(Telephone survey 8/87)

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146

GO OLI or circle 4 on the Reader Service Form.

Forum Message Boards Become Easier to Use

by Matthew Burns

Revised forum menus and commands will soon make it easier to find messages in a forum.

As CompuServe nears the end of a year-long forum redesign project, final changes are being made to the commands and menus subscribers use to find forum messages.

The new menus and commands will offer advantages to all forum members—novices and experts alike. "Through menus or commands, members will be able to get a bird's eye view of a message board," explains Donna Black, CompuServe forum specialist. "They can then use commands or successive menus to zoom in on the messages they want to read."

For example, suppose you're in a forum related to gardening. The following screens show how you could use new forum menus or commands to find and read messages that interest you.

```
Forum Functions Menu
1 INSTRUCTIONS
2 MESSAGES
3 LIBRARIES (Files)
4 CONFERENCING (5 participating)
5 ANNOUNCEMENTS from sysop
6 MEMBER directory
7 OPTIONS for this forum
Enter choice ! 2
```

The Functions Menu is a forum's main menu. As in other menus that appear in a forum, the uppercase words on the menu are forum commands.

To get to a menu of message-related choices, select Option 2 from the Functions menu or enter the command MESSAGES. Commands also may be abbreviated (MES). The forum then displays this menu:

```
Forum Messages Menu
Message age selection = [New]
1 SELECT (Read by section and
  subject)
2 READ or search messages (5 waiting)
3 CHANGE age selection
4 COMPOSE a message
Enter choice ! 1
```

Next, select Option 1 or enter the SELECT command. The forum then displays a menu of section names:

```
Forum Sections Menu
Section names (# subjs/# msgs)
Vegetable Gardening (17/49)
Nutrition (4/20)
Plant Talk (3/6)
Enter choice(s) or ALL ! 6
```

Here you select a section. Then the forum displays a menu of subjects:

```
Forum Subjects Menu
Subject (# msgs)
Section 6 - Nutrition
Vitamins (11)
Proteins (1)
Calorie Counter (6)
Enter choice(s) !
```

Now you select a subject. The forum then displays messages having that subject.

The new forum menus and commands reflect a commitment CompuServe made early in the redesign project. "The needs of members vary," says Black. "We've tried to make menus and commands helpful to newcomers and also to more advanced forum members."

For example, the Sections Menu provides the number of subjects and messages within a section.

"This information is important to some members," says Black, "because it enables them to find the most active sections in a forum."

Beyond changes to menus and commands, the message board itself has changed little. Most of the changes in the new forum software are to more intuitive commands and procedures, many suggested by subscribers and forum administrators, according to Black.

For example, the new forum software will automatically display related messages sharing the same subject in "thread order." Thread order makes reading messages like following a conversation.

Another change involves the action members can take after reading a message. Instead of typing N to see the next message, members will simply press the Return key.

To ensure a smooth transition from the current to new forum software, CompuServe will continue to support current forum commands in the new forum software. In addition, CompuServe plans to implement an OF command (short for Old Forums) and NF command (short for New Forums).

These commands will enable members to use the "old" (that is the current) forum software or the new software in any forum.

For more information about the new forum software, watch for announcements in What's New (GO NEW).

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VIA MODEM

THIS NUMBER JUST MADE E-MAIL EASIER TO USE.

Register today FREE.

List your preferred company or personal E-Mail address in the National E-Mail Registry™—the online E-Mail phone book.

When you are listed, others can find you—even if they don't know which E-Mail service you use. And you can find others.

Act now. . .your listing is free, and so is the call.

Call 800-622-0505
via modem.

300/1200/2400 Baud. 7 Bit Word.
Even Parity. 1 Stop Bit.
Touch Return Three Times.

NATIONAL E-Mail REGISTRY

GO OLI or circle 5 on the Reader Service Form.

Update on Uploading

This month we wrap up our three-part examination of forum data libraries. In previous columns we saw how to search for files online and how to retrieve or download what you find. Now we see how you can make your own contributions: *uploading* your own files.

Suppose you've written a program or an article that you want to share in your favorite forum. Already you've browsed its data libraries and found that nothing already present is quite like what you've composed.

To get started, you first need to access the specific data library to which you wish to upload, using the DL command followed by the library number, as in DL2 to access Data Library 2. (In some forums, the forum administrator or sysop requests that all new contributions be placed in a specific data library. Descriptions of the libraries will tell you if this convention is used in your favorite forum.)

Now type the command UPL (for "UPLoad"). The only problem you might encounter at this point is that sometimes a data library subtopic already is full. If you receive a message that there's not enough room for new files, you might post a short note to the sysop, who will get back to you when the space situation improves.

Assuming space is available, the system next asks for the filename as you want it to appear in the data library. It can be up to six letters with a three-letter extension, such as FARMER.BAS. Some forums have special extensions for certain kinds of material. Sysop bulletins and the descriptions of the data libraries probably will give you the background on this as well.

Now you need to tell CompuServe what transfer protocol you want to use for the upload, picking an option from this menu:

```
*****************************
Data Library protocols available -
1 XMODEM (MODEM7) protocol
2 CompuServe 'B' protocol
3 CompuServe 'A' protocol
4 DC2/DC4 CAPTURE protocol
5 Kermit protocol
0 Abort transfer request
Enter choice!
*****************************
```

Just as in downloading, you'll need to make sure that the communications program you're using offers the protocol you choose from the menu. Last month we noted that for receiving or sending program files, you can use any of these options except number 4. DC2/DC4 CAPTURE is an ASCII transfer and provides no error-checking. It's wise to use ASCII transmissions for text only.

Depending on the protocol you've selected, the system now might ask you to enter the name of the file as it appears on your disk. Both CompuServe's B Protocol and Kermit ask for this information. If it does, type in the drive specification and the filename exactly as it appears on your disk.

Finally, CompuServe needs to know the kind of the file you're sending. You'll see this menu:

```
*****************************
Transfer types available -
1 ASCII (7-bit)
2 Binary (8-bit)
3 Graphic:RLE
4 Graphic:NAPLPS
5 Graphic:GIF
Enter choice:
*****************************
```

By this, the system means in what *format* should the file be saved in the library? The biggest mistake new users make here is uploading a binary file (such as a program) but having it saved online in ASCII format. Keep this in mind—your file should be saved:

- In ASCII if it's something that should be readable by the users while they are online and it's already saved in ASCII format on your disk. This usually means textfiles (though some short BASIC programs are sometimes saved online in ASCII, as we'll discuss later.)
- In binary if it's a program (in the IBM world, that means a file saved on your disk with the extension .EXE or .COM, or is a "tokenized" .BAS file). So, we would have FARMER.EXE, a program, saved in binary form, while we could have FARMER.DOC, a textfile with the instructions, saved as an ASCII file.

There are exceptions to this rule, discussed at the end of this column.

About the other options, "Graphics" pertains to files containing data for high-resolution pictures that can be displayed online.

Now the upload begins. If you're using B Protocol or Kermit, CompuServe handles everything. If you're using XMODEM or DC2/DC4, the system prompts you to begin the transfer yourself. It assumes that you know the upload operations of your specific communications software.

When the upload is complete, the system prompts for keywords you wish placed on your file when it's made public. Select them carefully. As you saw in an earlier column, keywords are valuable when users are searching libraries, so choose words that describe the uniqueness of your contribution. If it's an accounting program, you might use ACCOUNTING, BUSINESS, STATISTICS and so forth. You can enter up to 132 characters worth of keywords.

After that, the system requests a description (in up to 500 characters). When finished, press the Return key and the system displays what you've written as keywords and as a description and asks you to confirm it. If you reply they're incorrect, you're asked to re-enter the keywords and description.

When everything is OK, the file is "copied" into the library, but it won't be made public immediately. All new files are flagged for the forum administrator's review. If the file came through properly, the sysops then will "merge" it into the data library. If they discover a problem, you'll receive word either on the message board or via EasyPlex.

Now, about those *exceptions* to the rule we suggested in file formats:

- The first deals with short BASIC programs, which can be uploaded and downloaded in ASCII, so long as you keep in mind a couple of things. First, the BASIC program has to be saved in ASCII on your disk. (In most versions of Microsoft BASIC, that means using the ",A" option in BASIC.) Secondly, the program must include only short lines. In many versions of BASIC, program lines can be up to 255 characters. However, on CompuServe the lines in ASCII files can be no longer than 149 characters. On the other hand, remember that "tokenized" BASIC programs (that is, programs saved from BASIC without the ",A" option) must be saved in binary in the libraries.
- Also, as noted last month, some forums actively use "archive" and "library" utilities to compress and pack small files into one large file for online storage. All files created with these utilities—even those that contain ASCII textfiles—must be saved online as binary files.

Charles Bowen, a contributing editor of Online Today, *co-authored* How to Get the Most Out of CompuServe *and* CompuServe for IBM PC Power Users. *His CompuServe User ID number is 70007,411.*

Go Mall

A GUIDE TO COMPUSERVE'S ELECTRONIC MALL® MARCH/APRIL 1988

Five new merchants christened:

Arts Online
Autoquot-R™
Some Things Special
Harris' ScentSations
Elite Eyewear

The highlight of The Mall: Crazy '88s.

The British are coming—to Tele-Charge.

The art of self-sufficiency from Heathkit.

THE ELECTRONIC MALL®

Get to Know The Mall in '88.

Window shop the electronic outer concourse during eight connect-free weekends:

- The computer connection
- Online food and flower faire
- Kids, pets, fun and fitness
- Books and culture
- Online auto show
- Spring fashion preview
- Focus on business and finance
- Travel and leisure

DEAR SHOPPER

Dear Shopper,

I visit The Mall daily. Sometimes I'm shopping for something specific. Other times I'm just browsing. Always, I discover something new. For example, just the other day I stumbled upon a captivating collection of Southern-style cookbooks at Simon David ... and a shoulder bag at PetWorks for toting my cat around. I ordered a beautiful catalog of wines from Morrell & Co. And I started an insurance policy for my new laptop right online at Safeware.

There's much more to The Mall than meets the eye. New stores are constantly opening their doors—this month alone there are five, including Arts Online and Elite Eyewear.

Established favorites are always adding enhancements. Now if I, who possibly spends more time at The Mall than anyone, can be suprised by all that's there, then I think you will be, too.

In that spirit, we've designated March and April as a time to "Get to Know The Mall in 1988." To simplify your explorations, we're spotlighting a certain segment of The Mall each week for two months. One week, for example, we'll be hosting an online auto show. The next it might be a spring fashion preview or a food and flower faire. A complete schedule of events is included inside this issue.

And, to add a little pizzazz to each trip, we've set aside a door prize for every 88th person who visits The Mall during the month of March. Simply answer one easy electronic question. No purchase is necessary, and you can win more than once. If you're the 88th shopper, you'll see a congratulatory message onscreen. A complimentary gift will be mailed to you automatically.

See you at The Mall!

Electronically yours,

Cindy Morgan

GOINGS ON

Music maniacs: shop free four weekends in March at Express Music.

Three times the sound! Express Music has tripled the size of its Mall store. That means multiple LPs, cassettes and CDs—many at special discounted prices.

To celebrate, Express Music is picking up your connect tab every weekend in March. That's right ... every weekend from 12:01 a.m. Saturday through 11:59 p.m. Sunday you'll be free of connect charges when you're in the Express Music store.

Shop for everything—for nothing.

Stroll the store at your leisure. Take a look at the new releases. Poke through the CD bargain bin and purchase specially-priced

discs at only $9.98. Pick up a classic rock cassette or two at the cassette sale corner for only $4.98 per tape. Scan the selection of classic, country and western, jazz, pop, and rock 'n' roll recordings. Explore an all-new selection of imported, limited-edition labels, including Chandos (romantic English classical music), Sheffield (limited-edition digital LPs and CDs) and Roir (the latest underground rock cassettes). From Abba to ZZ Top, from show tunes to road tunes, more diverse music than ever before is at your fingertips.
GO EMC

THE ELECTRONIC LETTERBOX

Complete freedom.

Dear Mall manager,

What an enticing collection of merchants you have within The Mall. I browsed through some to take advantage of CompuServe's free connect offers.

I was amazed. I'll spend more time in The Mall this weekend and, much to my wife's chagrin, will probably order some things, too.

John L.
Rochester, N.Y.

Setting up shop.

Dear Mall manager,

This entire concept is so interesting that I would seriously consider opening my own business on The Mall.

How would I go about it?

Richard C.
Santa Barbara, Calif.
Note: See "How to Open a Mall Store" on page 39. —ED.

GOINGS ON

Communications innovator John Cate will emcee AT&T's March 15 program.

AT&T welcomes electronic lecturers.

Again, AT&T will host online forums in both March and April. This is your chance to keep on top of what's happening in the world of communications. For a schedule of speakers, GO ATT.

Beat the bear with investment software.

In such a volatile stock market, you can't afford to gamble with your investments. If you're an IBM or compatible owner, pay a visit to Investment Software and inspect the selection of specialized investment software.

Programs are offered on portfolio management, options, bonds and commodities. Investment Software, in its online catalog, also carries sophisticated programs for the professional broker. Recommended are *Back Trak*, a trading development system, and *Centerpiece*, the money manager's portfolio management system.

Tame the market. GO IS

Go Mall

***Go Mall*, March/April 1988**
Volume 2 Number 2

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Don't be a stranger

Get to Know The Mall in '88 for free.

During March and April, acquaint yourself with The Mall without opening your checkbook. Every week, you'll discover intriguing online events. And every weekend you'll be able to shop a select group of merchants for free.

That's right, from 12:01 a.m. Saturday through 11:59 p.m. Sunday we'll waive connect fees for merchants spotlighted in The Mall. Go exploring ... take advantage of free offers ... order print catalogs ... try your hand at a contest or two.

Here's a schedule of the special events and Spotlight Shopping we have planned. For details, GO MALL.

Enjoy!

- **March 1 —7**
  The computer connection.
  Shop for free Saturday, March 5 and Sunday, March 6.

- **March 8—14**
  Online food and flower faire.
  Shop for free Saturday, March 12 and Sunday, March 13.

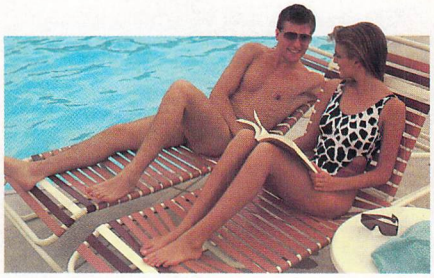
- **March 15—21**
  Kids, pets, fun and fitness.
  Shop for free Saturday, March 19 and Sunday, March 20.

- **March 22—28**
  Books and culture.
  Shop for free Saturday, March 26 and Sunday, March 27.

- **March 29—April 4**
  Online auto show.
  Shop for free Saturday, April 2 and Sunday, April 3.

- **April 5—11**
  Spring fashion preview.
  Shop for free Saturday, April 9 and Sunday, April 10.

- **April 12—18**
  Focus on business and finance.
  Shop for free Saturday, April 16 and Sunday April 17.



- **April 19—25**
  Travel and leisure.
  Shop for free Saturday, April 23 and Sunday, April 24.

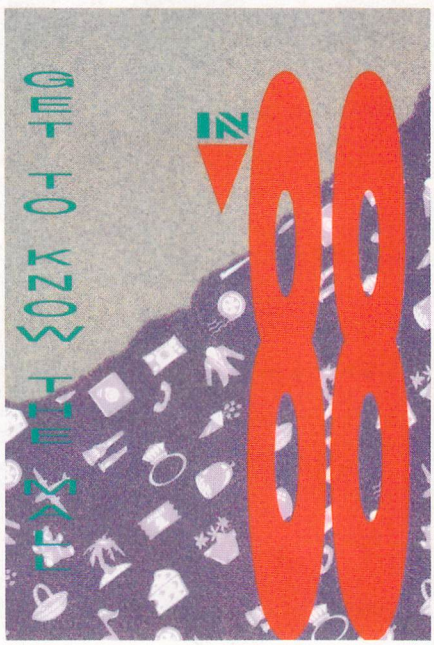
Announcing crazy '88s: the highlight of The Mall.

Take advantage of this chance to bag *another* Electronic Mall prize.

During the month of March, every 88th shopper to visit The Mall will instantly win an Electronic Mall premium. Once there is a winner, the next shopper to enter The Mall is no. 1—and we're on our way to another winner! No purchase is necessary. Simply answer one easy electronic question. And you could win more than once.

To become a Super '88 Shopper, simply enter GO MALL. If you're a winner, you'll see a congratulatory note onscreen and hear a catchy tune. Your prize will be mailed automatically.

It's that easy.



For your eyes only: prescriptions online from Elite Eyewear.

Eyewear accessories can mean the difference between visual acuity and visual imparity. Hunters, skiers, licensed pilots, joggers—and others with active lifestyles—know that. Where to find the right eyewear—and for some, precise prescription lenses—can be a problem. Until now.

With the opening of Elite Eyewear on The Mall, the exact eyewear you need is keystrokes away.

A visible reputation.

Elite Eyewear has been in the prescription eyeglass business for more than 25 years. Your concerns and needs about eyewear are obvious: eyewear must perform well, fit well, feel good and look good. Elite Eyewear makes one guarantee. You must be fully satisfied. Period.

Thirty days to decide.

Try any eyewear product from Elite Eyewear's Mall store for one month. If you're not completely pleased, return it for any necessary adjustments or a full refund.

Names your eyes will recognize.

Glance through Elite Eyewear's electronic selection of designer eyewear.

Carrera® ... Ray-Ban® ... Serengeti® Drivers ... Dunhill® ... Bolle® ... Cazal® ... and many more preferred frames.

Among the sunglasses offered are Christian Dior, Serengeti Vermillion (the first all-weather, high performance sunglasses designed to withstand extreme exposure) and this season's hottest fashion accessory—sportsglasses. (Styles available with prescription lenses are indicated with an "RX.")

Online lens guide.

Because Elite Eyewear wants its customers to be educated consumers and strives for total satisfaction, it's prepared a comprehensive online lens guide.

Discover the differences among, and the varied advantages of, photochromics ... ultra-violet coating ... scratch-resistant coating ... anti-reflective coating ... tinting ... and more.

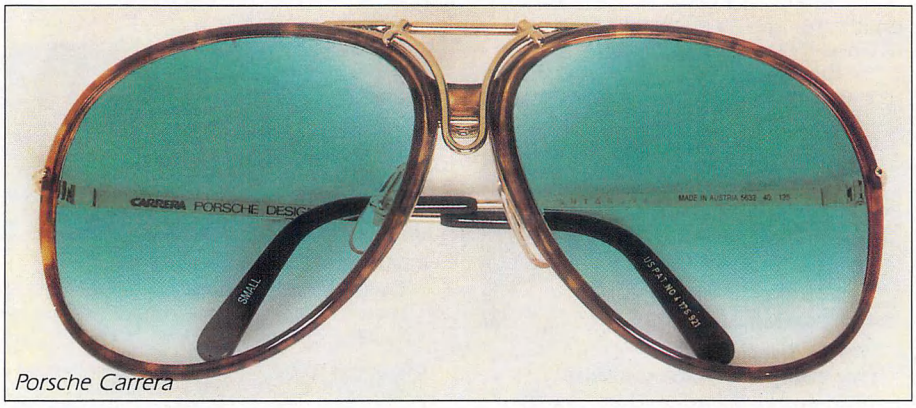
See what you'll save.

Make no mistake. Elite Eyewear is not a drive-through eye store. It's a full-service vision center.

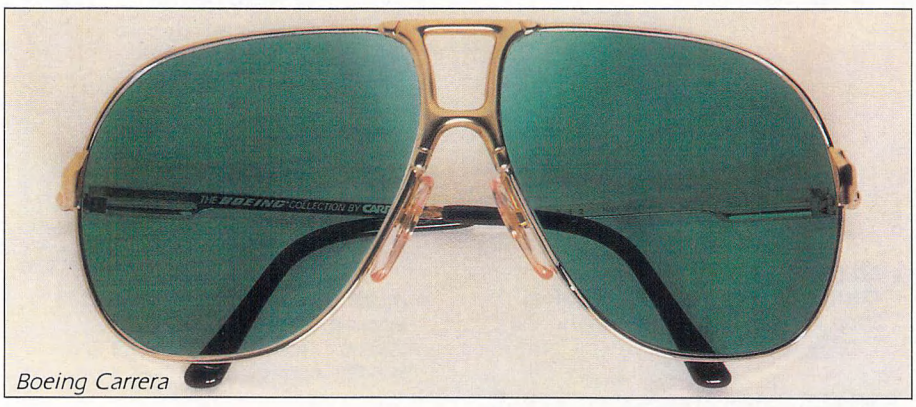
As a special introductory offer, Elite Eyewear will trim $5 from every pair of eyeglasses priced from $50 to $99 and $10 from every pair priced at more than $100.

The eyes have it. To explore Elite Eyewear merchandise and request a free full-color catalog, GO EE.

Cazal

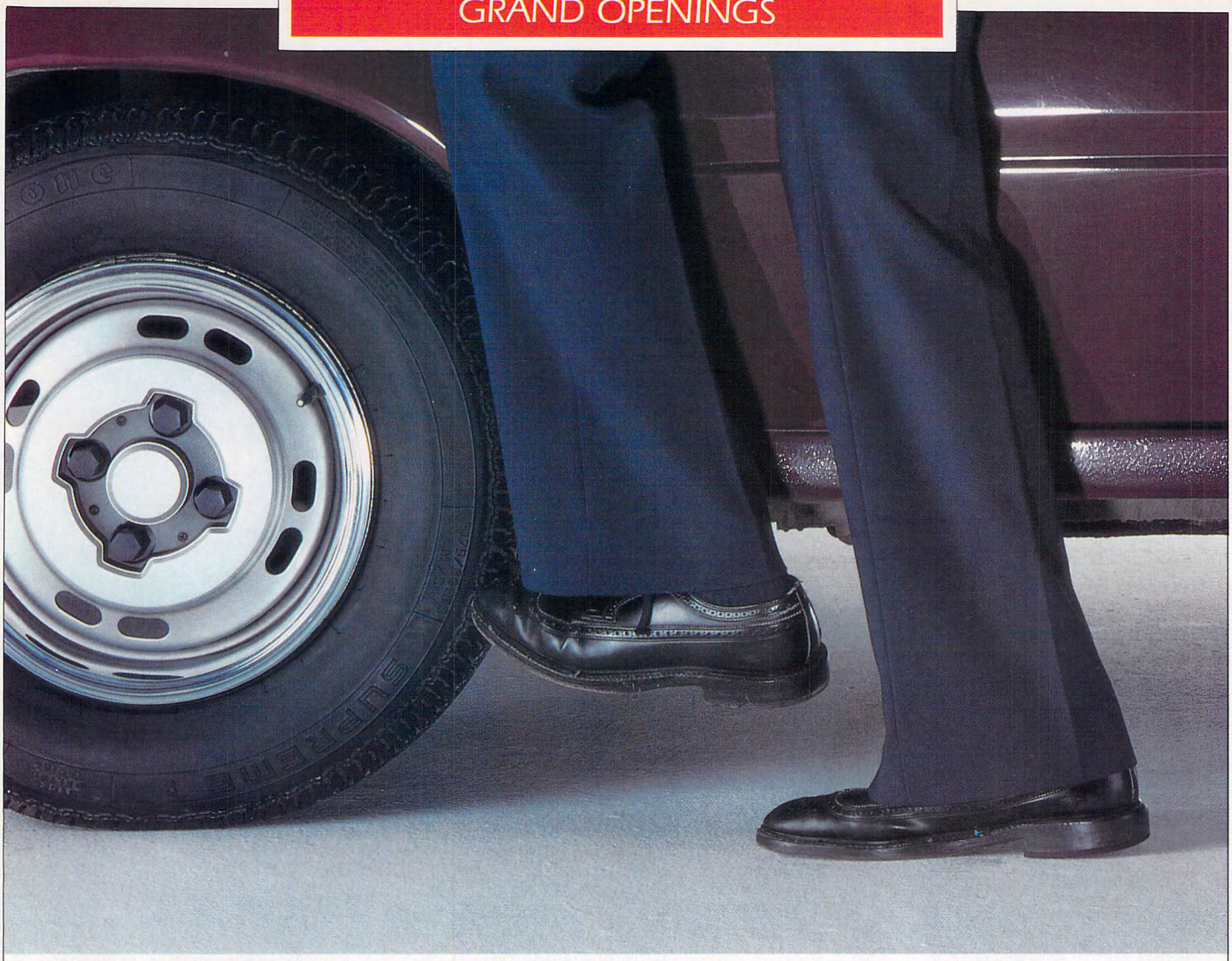


Porsche Carrera



Boeing Carrera

Christian Dior



No lemons: car buying made smart and simple.

Where can a confused consumer turn for the latest information on every automobile's price and features? To Autoquot-R™, a division of Discount Vehicle Leasing Co., a Boston-based independent leasing company in business for more than 14 years.

At Autoquot-R you won't get a slick sales pitch or a pretty package padded with extras you don't need.

And, unlike many consumer magazines, the information you'll receive won't be out of date by the time it's in your hands.

Just the facts, ma'am.

What you will get is the facts, straight up. That means the latest information you'll need in order to make an intelligent, unpressured decision about your next automobile purchase.

Armed with this information, you'll be in a position to visit your local dealer and make the best deal possible on the vehicle of your choice.

Research becomes buying power.

Autoquot-R buys its information from leading independent research firms. Using this information, Autoquot-R compiles a custom report on any of more than 1,200 vehicles. Cars, vans, pick-ups, four-wheel drives, jeeps ... Fords, Chevys, Buicks ... BMWs, Mercedes, Porsches. With Autoquot-R, you have access to the vital statistics on virtually every make and model, such as:

- The factory invoice price *and* the suggested retail price.
- A detailed description of all standard features, available single options and option packages ... sometimes totaling hundreds of permutations.

Sample Autoquot.

You can find two free sample Autoquot reports at Autoquot-R's Mall office. Take a look to see just how comprehensive and valuable they are.

Incentive reports at no charge.

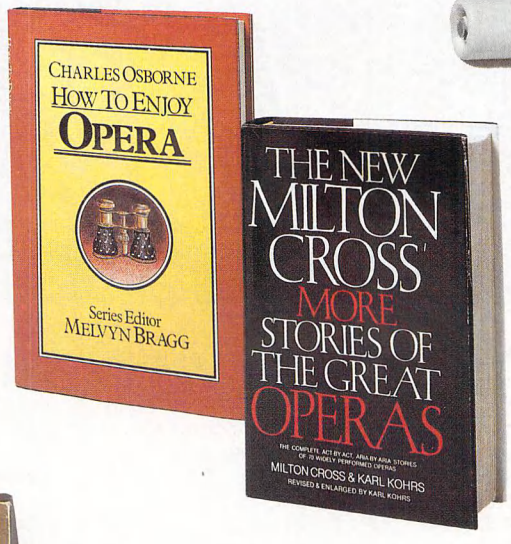
As an added bonus, you'll receive a free Autosav-R™ Report with every Autoquot you purchase. Updated on a weekly basis, each Autosav lists the factory incentive programs currently offered by manufacturers. Rebates ... free extras ... premiums with a purchase ... special financing deals and more are all described in detail here.

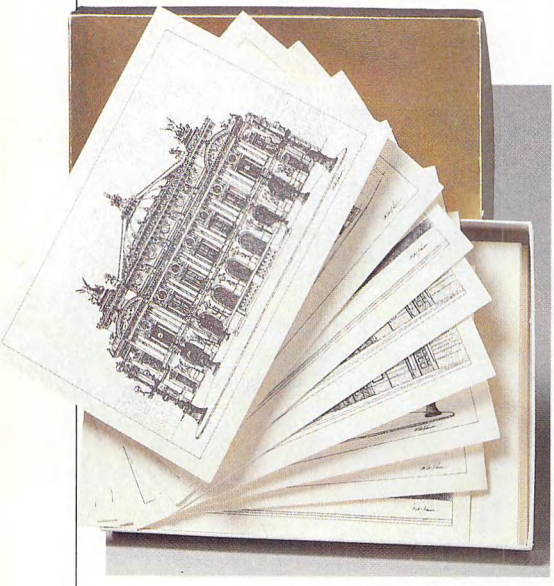
Grand opening sale.

To celebrate its grand opening at The Mall, Autoquot-R will give you a free report with every order. That means you get three—not two—Autoquot's for only $29.95! Each additional report is $5.95. And the Autosav-R report is absolutely free.

With the average price of a standard domestic car now just under $13,000, this is an investment that could literally save you thousands. Keep in mind that the educated consumer is the best consumer.

To maximize your next automotive investment, GO AQ.





Spend a night at the opera. At home.

Opera fans, you now have a music fest at your fingertips. Arts Online, featuring a score of new recordings, hard-to-find classics, CDs, videos, books and librettos, is your electronic arts index.

From *Romeo and Juliet* to *Faust* ... from Bizet's *Carmen* to Puccini's *Tosca* ... from Luciano Pavarotti to Beverly Sills ... Arts Online has it—or will order it.

For newcomers to opera, there's Charles Osborne's instructional book, *How to Enjoy Opera*. For true aficionados, there's Wagner's *Der Ring des Nibelungen*, a complete 15-CD boxed set.

Scroll through Arts Online's electronic catalog. Or request a free copy of the full-color print catalog available. Everything listed can be ordered electronically.

Cultural videos.
Home Vision, an exclusive niche of Arts Online's Mall store, stocks a selection of fine arts video cassettes ... the largest collection available anywhere!

Whatever your passion—art, ballet, symphony, literature or opera (of course)—Home Vision has something to appease you. *The Portrait of an Artist* series, for example, showcases the lives and works of modern giants such as Georgia O'Keeffe and Thomas Eakins as well as many early masters, including El Greco, Rembrandt and Cezanne. Among the literary greats captured on tape are Norman Mailer, David Mamet and Ed McBain. *The Music of Man*, a splendid eight-part series, fills the ears as well as the eyes.

In all, dozens of titles are offered online. Request a free copy of the Home Vision print catalog, containing more than 170 cassettes. Spend an evening with Andre Previn conducting the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra ... sleuth with Patricia Highsmith, America's first lady of crime ... savor Baryshnikov dancing *Don Quixote* ... from your living room.

Free opera light.
As a special offer to CompuServe subscribers, Arts Online will include a free gift with all orders of $60 or more.

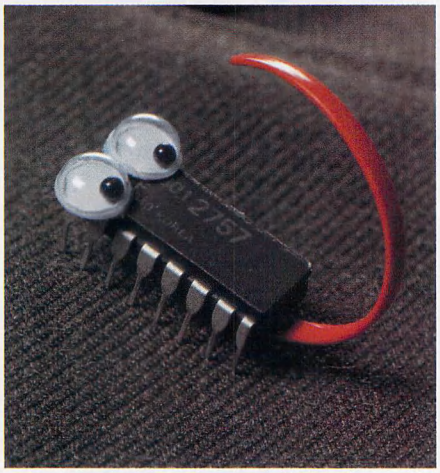
The gift—a handy, pocket-sized opera light—can be used unobtrusively during a performance to read a program or libretto.

Open yourself to a world of culture. GO AO

You'll find something special at Some Things Special. (Isn't *that* special?)

Wander through Some Things Special, a micro-Mall of unusual merchandise.

The store's amiable owner, Dot, has packed her shelves with computer novelties, videos on using personal computers, simple software packages and dozens of novelties.



This bug carries a terminal illness.

Ouch.
What?
I've been bitten.
By what?
The Computer Bug.

As a reminder that you're forever afflicted, get Some Things Special's Computer Bug, an affable creature constructed of a computer chip, tail, and goggle eyes. Care-and-training manual is included. The price: $3.49.

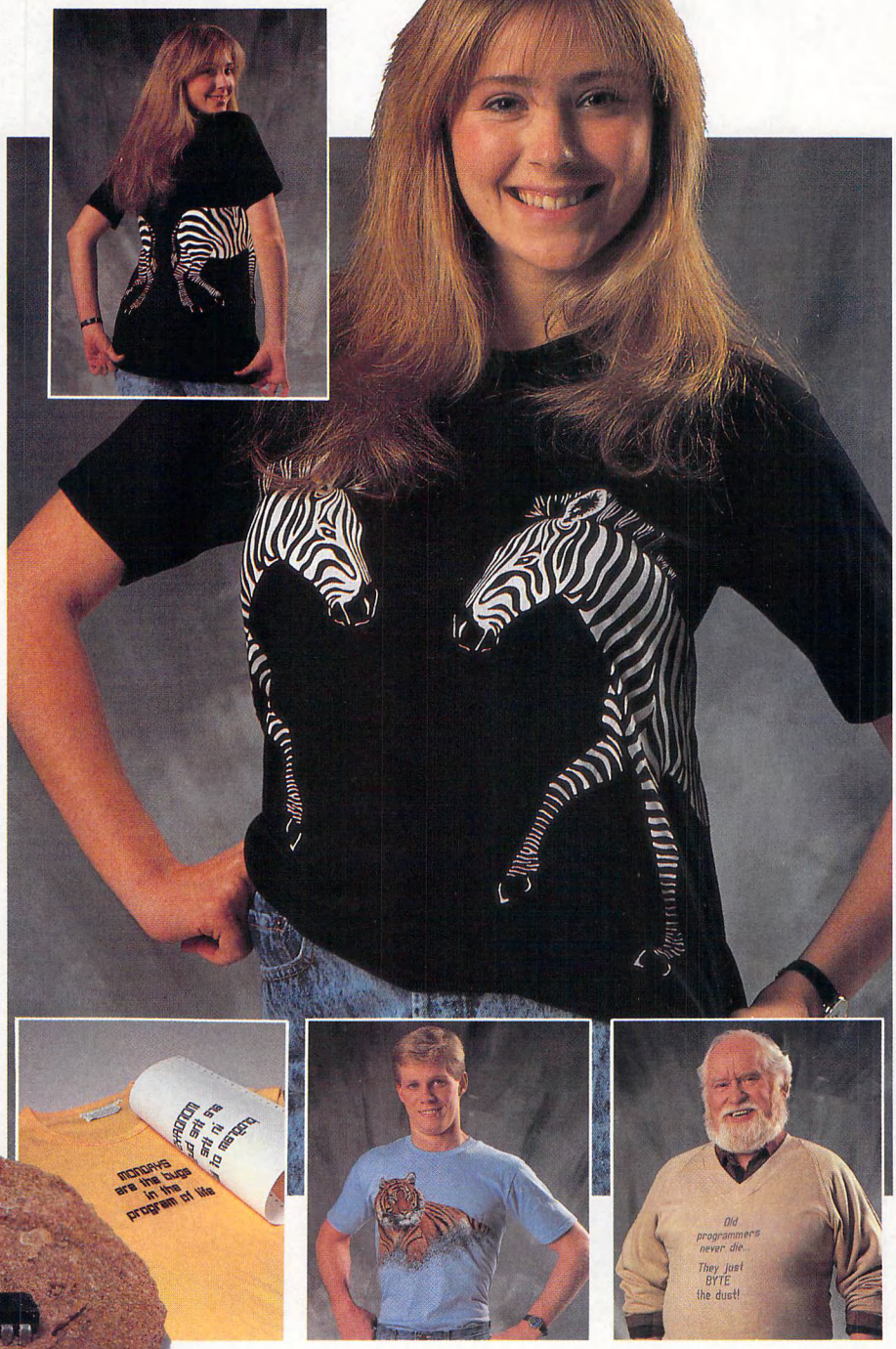
Other gift items for addicts include Dot's chocolate "chip" cookies, a computer clock and any of Dot's statement T-shirt transfers. One particularly cherished declaration: "dBase is dPits."

Computing on video.
For computer neophytes, a series of VHS video cassettes is available to guide you through a number of popular software packages. Those featured include *Making the Right Choice*, a program for anyone contemplating a DOS system computer, *Introduction to Personal Computing* and *Introduction to Lotus 1-2-3*. As a special offer, if you purchase the entire nine-video set, Dot will snip 25% off the original price.

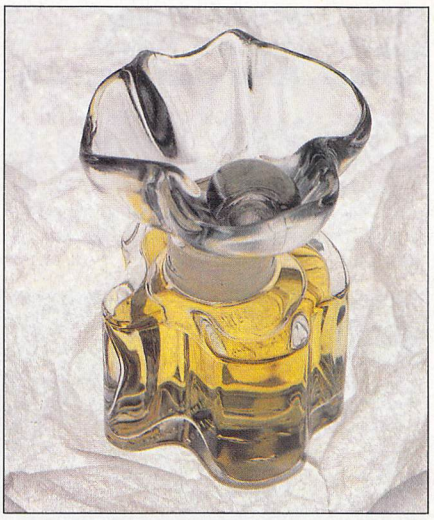
A monkey on your back that you won't mind.
Also featured online are Fauna Fashions, a safari of Harlequin nature, graphic, silk-screened T-shirts. Available in both adult and youth sizes, each celebrates a particular animal. The collection includes a Bengal tiger, a curious koala bear, a zebra and mother and child humpback whales.

But we're just warming up. Enter Some Things Special and Dot will direct you through her inventory ... from PC XT-compatible systems to software packages.

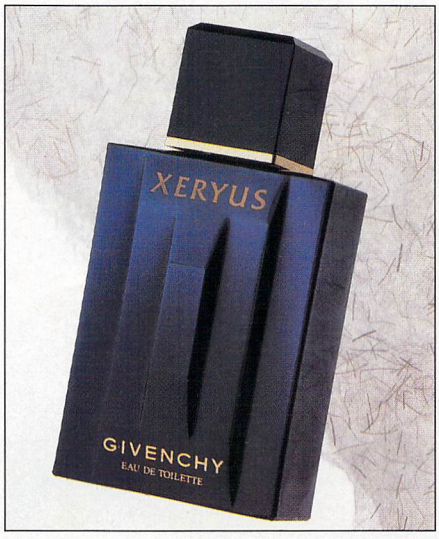
Now, wasn't that special? GO SP



Harris'



Oscar de la Renta



Xeryus

Spring scents and seductions from Harris' ScentSations.

It's said that in springtime a man's fancy turns to romance.

Now, with the opening of Harris' ScentSations, the fairer sex can nudge love along a bit with the judicious application of a fitting "aromatic."

Ladies, visit Harris' ScentSations, an online offering from Harris, the California-based department store, to see the scores of scents available. Each is as unique as the lady making the selection.

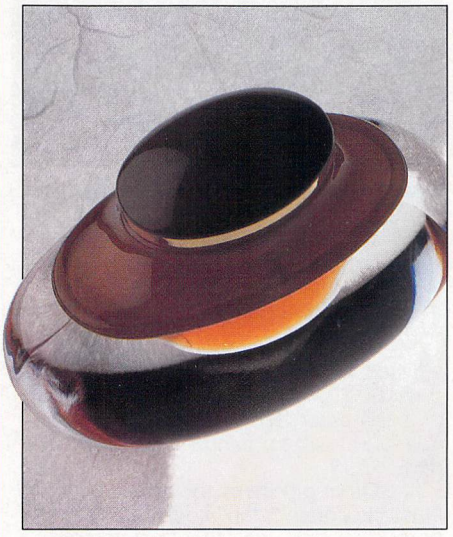
Make inhaling a pleasure.
Give yourself an unfair market advantage with a drop of Oscar de la Renta. This utterly feminine creation is blended to bewitch even the staunchest of gentlemen. Or, to inspire passion beyond reason, employ Obsession by Calvin Klein.

He'll be helpless. On a more subtle note, consider Coco by Chanel, a scent that's at once mysterious and understated. Dozens of leading brands are offered, and Harris' ScentSations will gladly assist in your selection.

Not for ladies only.
What would make a man smell his best? Consider Tuscany, a virile, fresh and lively fragrance inspired by the intrigue of the land where modern man was born. Or, to induce romance, consider Xeryus by Hubert de Givenchy. It's an intriguing blend that will leave you lingering in her mind long after the evening is over. Other manly selections include Polo by Ralph Lauren, Aramis Classic and Perry Ellis.

Harris' ScentSations will gladly gift wrap and enclose a card with any selection. All major credit cards accepted.

Pick a potion ... for yourself or someone else. GO HR



Obsession

Tuscany

Coco

The highest level of efficiency: self-sufficiency. Do it yourself with Heathkit.

In 1947, the Heath Company marketed its very first product, an easy-to-assemble oscilloscope, under the Heathkit name. Since then, Heath's product line has grown and diversified to include computers, amateur radio equipment, test instruments, security devices, personal robots and more.

Earn the pride and satisfaction that comes with saying, "I built it myself."

Online support, offline resources.
Become a weekend entrepreneur. Stop in at Heath's Mall store and discover a wealth of mechanical diversions. Online you can request free copies of Heath's extensive print catalogs. Each includes complete product descriptions, specifications and photos.

You can also pinpoint, online, the Heath/Zenith Computers and Electronics Center nearest you where you'll find most products on display. Or you can explore Heath's extensive online catalog, featuring more than 400 exciting products for home, hobby and business.

Sixteen product categories are offered, including automotive, education, energy, marine, tools and weather. All products include detailed instructions to ensure easy assembly. Heath's staff of experts will make available any technical assistance you might need. Consult the Heath Company phone directory online for the correct number to call.

Health, safety, weather, phones ... and fish.
The health-minded will run across fever thermometers and automatic digital blood pressure devices ... the safety-conscious will be drawn to keyless locks and garage door openers ... fishermen will lure in depth-sounders and fish-finders ... budding meteorologists can collect the raw materials for weather stations ... and telecommunication tinkerers can choose from a wide range of telephones and radio equipment.

Discover what you can do with your two hands (and request a free print catalog). GO HTH

MINI-SPOTLIGHT

Find four clubs in one at RCA Direct ... free.

Discover four diverse entertainment clubs at RCA Direct (a division of BMG Direct Marketing) during four weekends of free connect.

Every weekend in March, from 12:01 a.m. Saturday through 11:59 p.m. Sunday, you can explore the advantages of membership in all four of RCA Direct's entertainment clubs ... free. RCA Music Service ... The Compact Disc Club ... The International Preview Society ... and The RCA Video Club. Each offers you an easy, economical way to build your entertainment library.

A listener's premiums.
Each also offers special incentives for joining. RCA's Music Service, for example, offers you eight records or cassettes for the price of one, with nothing else to buy ... ever!

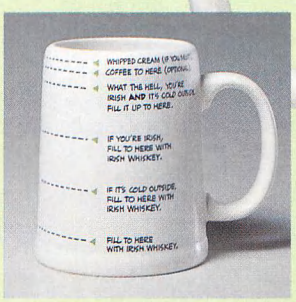
New Video Club members can choose two videos for only $1 when agreeing to buy just two more at regular club prices over the next two years.

Sign up online.
As an added advantage, CompuServe subscribers can join online. If joining the Video Club, for example, you select from an online catalog featuring more than 200 selections, including classic movies, new releases and music videos.

For sounds that sizzle—or that soothe—GO RCA. (And don't forget ... there are *no* connect fees at RCA Direct during every weekend in March.)

Flatteries born of the Blarney stone.

- **The luck of the Irish.** Irish soda bread, Irish whiskey cake and a St. Patrick's Day cookie tin. From Pepperidge Farm. GO PF
- **Kilarney neckwear.** A St. Patrick's Day tie from Pepperidge Farm. GO PF
- **Six inches of bear.** Bright green Erin bears—only $5.00. From Walter Knoll Florist. GO WK
- **Top o' the morning.** Irish Cream coffee (caffeinated and decaffeinated) and all-new Kona Emerald Cream, a combination of Kona Fancy AA, Irish Cream and Chocolate Mint. From Coffee Emporium. GO COF


WHIPPED CREAM (IF YOU LIKE)
COFFEE TO HERE. (OPTIONAL)
WHAT THE HELL, YOU'RE IRISH AND IT'S COLD OUTSIDE. FILL IT UP TO HERE.
IF YOU'RE IRISH, FILL TO HERE WITH IRISH WHISKEY.
IF IT'S COLD OUTSIDE, FILL TO HERE WITH IRISH WHISKEY.
FILL TO HERE WITH IRISH WHISKEY.

- **An Irish weekend.** Complete travel packages include airfare to Ireland, hotel, sight-seeing and many extras. From Ameropa Travel. GO AT
- **Show your mug, lad.** Irish coffee mug includes step-by-step recipes for Irish coffee. Only $8. From Walter Knoll Florist. GO WK

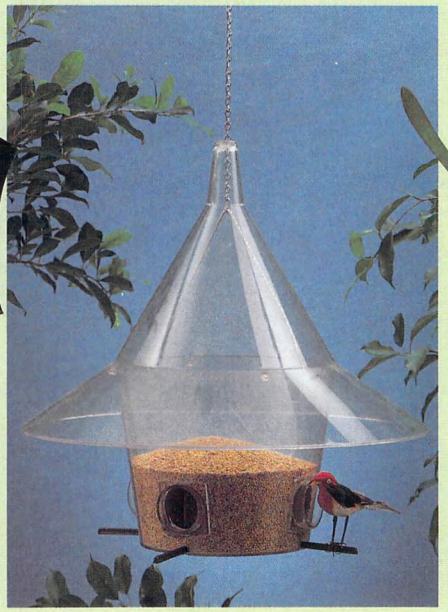
Easter feasts and beasts.

Cornish game hens and quail. Gently smoked over aromatic mesquite wood. From Simon David. GO SIM

"Frilly wabbit!" This bow-tied bunny hoists baskets of flowers and jelly beans. From Walter Knoll Florist. GO WK

Rainbow Pak Plus paper. Create arresting mailings with this selection of bright red, blue, and gold papers. Includes matching envelopes. From R + R Direct. GO RD

Squirrel-resistant bird feeder. Features four feeding pouches and a 24-inch steel chain for hanging in the garden or on the patio. From Hammacher Schlemmer. GO HS



Wares from the earth. Glazed earthenware reproductions for spring's first flowers. From The Metropolitan Museum of Art. GO MMA

Bulbs that don't need changing. Amaryllis bulb kits from Lincoln Manor Baskets. GO LM

Boning up. Rawhide Bucket o' Bones. From Petworks. GO PW

***Feed Me!*™ game.** A great game for family and friends that co-stars a friendly plant and an insatiable man-eating plant. From TSR Hobby Shop. GO TSR

American Express® Gift Cheques. Accepted worldwide at millions of stores and retail establishments. Each shares a prestigious gold envelope with a gift card. Available in $25, $50 and $100 denominations. From American Express. GO AXM

Easter basket bouquet. A fresh arrangement of spring flowers in a bamboo basket. From Walter Knoll Florist. GO WK

Warding off April showers.

Staying dry. The doorman's giant umbrella and the smallest flat-folding umbrella. From Hammacher Schlemmer. GO HS

DISCOVERIES IN PRINT

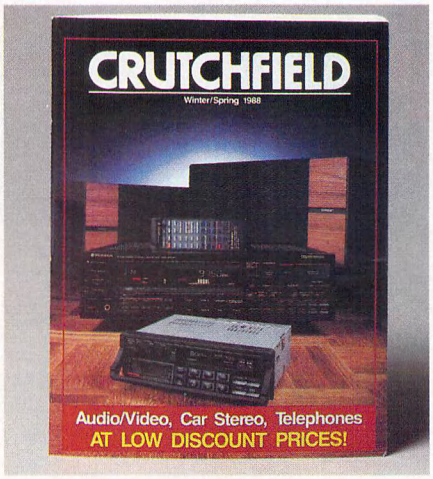
Guide to spirits. New! *Morrell & Company Spring Catalog* from New York's premier wine merchant. This oversized, full-color catalog is brimming with selections from the the most fruitful vineyards at home and abroad ... vintage champagnes, burgundies, zinfandels and more. Plus a selection of old & rare wines. You'll spend hours pouring over the choices. For your free copy of this collectors' catalog, GO MC.

Gift suggestions from the curators. New! *The Metropolitan Museum of Art Spring Catalogue.* This handsome assemblage displays books, notecards, posters, jewelry and more. To order, GO MMA.

COMPUTER DISCOUNT WAREHOUSE
Prices shown are Manufacturer's Retail Prices. Use for reference only. Contact your Sales Representative for current discount prices.
1-(800) 233-4426
1987
The Computer Products Catalog
SPRING-SUMMER

Play offense with office purchasing. Suit up with the free *Computer Discount Warehouse Catalog.* Its pages are overstocked with bargains on printers, software, peripherals, telephones, fax machines and more. GO CD

AT&T's brochure rack. Individual fact-filled brochures on a myriad of AT&T products and services, including Video Teleconferencing, Merlin Plus, and STARLAN Communications System. GO ATT



Set your sights—and sounds. New! With more than 100 pages, the *1988 Winter/Spring Crutchfield Catalog* contains car stereos, home audio systems, video recorders, telephones, security systems, accessories and more. For your free copy, GO CFD.

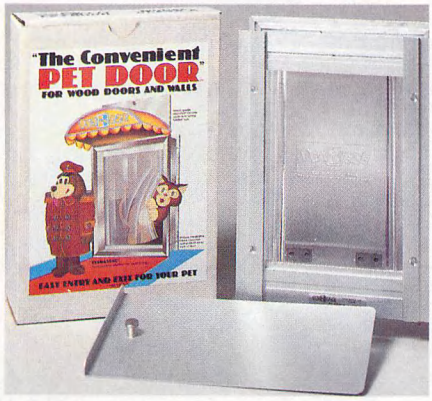
GOURMET/FLOWERS

Fresh fruit for March—only. Luscious honey tangerines. From Florida Fruit Shippers. GO FFS

Beauty preserved. A wicker basketful of silk-blend summer flowers from Walter Knoll Florist. GO WK

HOBBIES/TOYS

Paranoia! 2nd Edition. A game set in a dark, humorous future. Guaranteed to confirm the fact that everyone *is* out to get you. From TSR Hobby Shop. GO TSR



The Pet Door. All new! Lets your pet come and go at will. From PetWorks. GO PW

WINDOWS ON THE MALL

MERCHANDISE/ELECTRONICS

Videophiles: set your sights. VCRs, color televisions and video camcorders. From StereoVideo Factory. GO SV

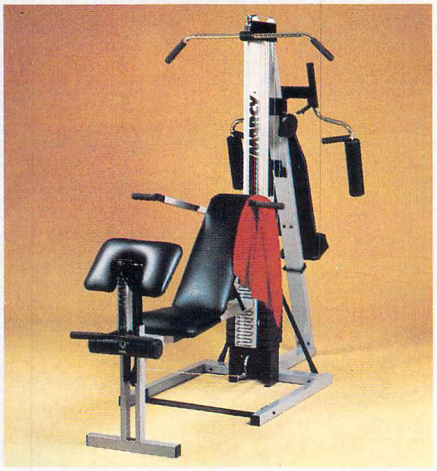
The camera never lies. 35 mm cameras at discount prices! Canon, Minolta, Nikon, and Olympus. From Garden Camera and Electronics. GO GC

Tool kit. For your personal computer, add, remove, replace chips ... undertake minor repairs ... do it yourself, and save. This kit includes 11 tools in a stark black case for only $28.45. From R + R Direct. GO RD

Andrew Tobias' Financial Calculator for the IBM. Provides you with speedy answers to practical financial questions. From Software Discounters of America. GO SDA

List Plus. Database management for the Apple IIgs. From Software Discounters of America. GO SDA

PREMIUM MERCHANTS



Marcy Mach 3. The top contender in home fitness equipment. From American Express. GO AXM

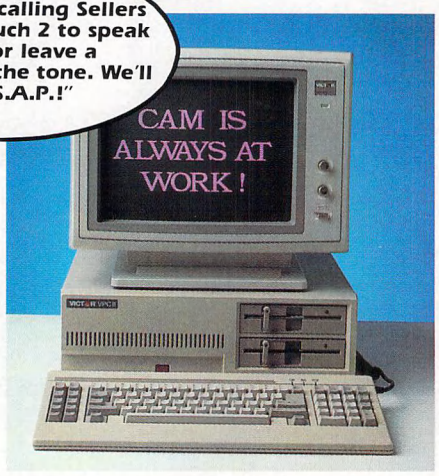
Swing 'n' serve table. A coffee table by day ... a party table by night. From American Express. GO AXM

Medici Horse. Reproduction of a museum sculpture: a 17th century equestrian statue of Cosimo I dé Medici in Florence. From The Metropolitan Museum of Art. GO MMA

Good wine gone bad? Never again ... with the tabletop wine preservation system. One of the most innovative tools available, this accessory protects the character of an open bottle of wine for up to three weeks. From Hammacher Schlemmer. GO HS

COMPUTING

CAM: the complete answering machine. Complete voice mail with a compact add-on board that requires only one slot in your personal computer. Less than $350! From R + R Direct. GO RD



APPAREL/ACCESSORIES

The shirt Brooks Brothers made famous. Button-down shirt with polo collar. Available in white, blue, pink, ecru, yellow, peach, stone, helio or green. From Brooks Brothers. GO BR

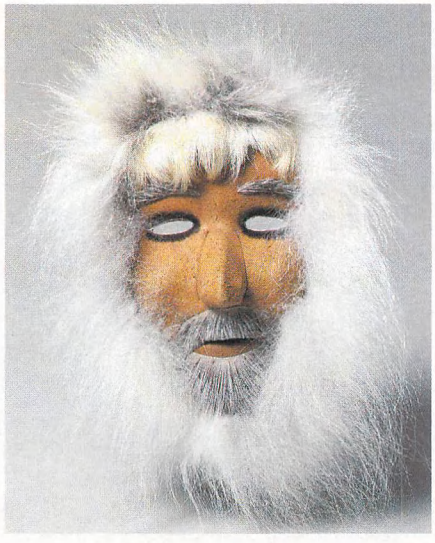
BOOKS/PERIODICALS

The Field & Stream Treasury of Trout Fishing. Culled from 90 years of *Field & Stream*, this is a must for everyone who has a tale about "the one who got away...." From Ballantine Books. GO BAL

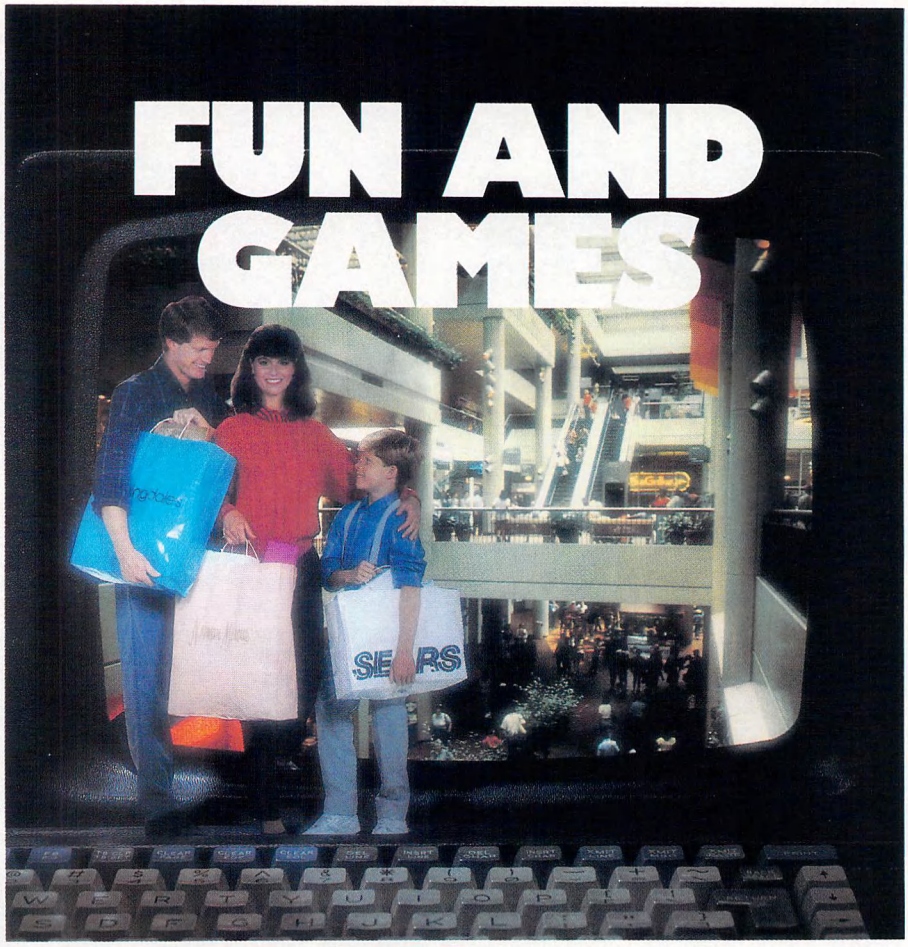
An abracadabran act. Put on a dazzling magic show with 70 different tricks. Set includes how-to book and all materials. From Waldenbooks. GO WB

GIFTS/NOVELTIES

The Breakfast-in-Bed basket. From Lincoln Manor Baskets. GO LM



Who was that masked man? Anaktuvak Pass Eskimo mask, handmade from caribou hide. From Ivory Cache. GO IV



The British are coming to Tele-Charge.

This month, the theme for Tele-Charge's Monthly "Theatre Buff's Brainbuster Quiz" is *The British Invasion*. The first five subscribers to correctly answer three trivia questions—each about a show that has successfully crossed the Atlantic—will win a prize. Entries will be accepted beginning at 12:01 on March 1. For contest details, GO TC.

Just enter to win at AT&T.

Don't forget—AT&T posts an all-new Chain Contest at its Mall store the first of every month. Monthly, the first subscriber to correctly solve the chain wins a unique prize.

This is actually a contest where no one loses ... because AT&T reserves a prize for everyone who enters. For details, Go ATT.

Pet of the Month contest.

Starting in March, PetWorks invites you to enter your favorite pet in its Pet of the Month contest. The prize? An online gift certificate at PetWorks—and your pet pictured in a future issue of *Go Mall*! For details, GO PW.

March Mystery Merchant.

Unscramble the following riddle and you'll unmask an Electronic Mall merchant. The first 10 subscribers to correctly solve it will be rewarded with a $12.50 usage credit.

Entries will be accepted beginning March 1 at 12:01 a.m., EST. To enter, access Go Mall Online (GO GMO) and select "Fun & Games."

The best of luck!

My first could be my second, and my second my first. Each is equal in number and I am present in both. Though no giant, I am simple to find. Just follow your nose. Who am I?

THE WINNERS' CIRCLE

Congratulations to Janelle Keberle of Chagrin Falls, Ohio. Keberle, as the 50th subscriber to correctly identify the contents of three mystery packages in the American Express' Holiday Contest, won the contents of all three packages ... a gentleman's accessory box, a mantle clock and a gold-plated vanity set.

Forty-nine other fortunate subscribers who correctly solved the puzzle won American Express solar calculators.

Congratulations from American Express and The Mall.

MALL DIRECTORY

APPAREL/ACCESSORIES

APC Apparel Concepts for Men ■
GD The Gold Connection
BR Brooks Brothers ■
EE Elite Eyewear * • †
IO Inside * Outside Lingerie ■ *
MJ Milkins Jewelers ■

AUTO

AQ Autoquot-R †
AV AutoVision
BU Buick Magazine ■
CHV Chevy Showroom ■
DU CompuLease
FMC Ford Motor Co. ■

BOOKS/PERIODICALS

BAL Ballantine Books
DJ Dow Jones & Co.
MH The McGraw-Hill Book Co.
MER Mercury House
BK Small Computer Book Club
TL Time-Life Books
WB Waldenbooks

COMPUTING

PRT Butler Graphics
CDA CDA Computer Sales ■ *
CD Computer Discount Warehouse
CE Computer Express *•
HTH The Heath Co. ■
IS Investment Software ■
MM Marymac Industries Inc.
MNU Menu International
NT Nitro Micro ■
RD R+R Direct
SAF Safeware ■
SDA Software Discounters of America
VC Virtusonics

FINANCIAL

INC Business Incorporating Guide
HRB H&R Block
MU Max Ule Discount Brokerage

GIFTS/NOVELTIES

BG BannerGram by Mail
CS Chocolate Software Company
HI Hawaiian Isle
IV Ivory Cache
JE J.E. Smith Brassware
SP Some Things Special †
LM Lincoln Manor Baskets

GOURMET/FLOWERS

COF Coffee Emporium ■
FFS Florida Fruit Shippers ■
PF Pepperidge Farm ■
SIM Simon David
WK Walter Knoll Florist •

HEALTH/BEAUTY

BS B&K Beauty Supplies
GN General Nutrition Corporation
HR Harris' ScentSations †

HOBBIES/TOYS

DD Don's Dollhouse & Miniatures *•
HC Hobby Center Toys
DO The Doll Place
TSR TSR Hobby Shop ■ *

MERCHANDISE/ELECTRONICS

ATT AT&T
BD Black & Decker Powerline Network *•
ORD CompuServe Store
CFD Crutchfield ■
GC Garden Camera & Electronics *
SV StereoVideo Factory

MUSIC/MOVIES

AO Arts Online ■
RCA RCA Direct Marketing, Inc.
EMC Express Music *
MV Magic Castle Video
MAO Music Alley Online

OFFICE SUPPLIES

EX Executive Stamper
SC Stationery Center •

ONLINE SERVICES

EF EF Hutton ■
NN NewsNet
OA Official Airline Guides, Inc. ■

PREMIUM MERCHANTS

AXM American Express Merchandise ■
DI Diners Club
HS Hammacher Schlemmer ■
MMA Metropolitan Museum of Art *
MC Morrell and Company

SPORTS/LEISURE

BB Bike Barn
RR Rin Robyn Pool 'N Patio ■
OL Olympic Gift Shop ■ †
PW Petworks

TRAVEL/ENTERTAINMENT

AF Air France ■
AT Ameropa Travel ■
JC JCPenney Travel
MT Moment's Notice
TC Tele-Charge—Theatre tickets

■ Offers free print catalog.
* Denotes electronic order form for use with print catalog.
• Credits cost of print catalog toward purchase.
† Denotes new merchant.

HOW TO ORDER

Shopping The Mall.

Ordering from The Electronic Mall is easy. Each time you enter a Mall store, a personal order file, much like an electronic shopping cart, is opened for you. Browse a store's database, and when you see a product you would like to buy, type the letter "O" and the order will be placed in your file, similar to selecting an item from a store's shelf and placing it in your cart.

You can order directly from the product description page — there is no need to return to a store's top menu. You can order one item or a dozen. When you type "O," the system does not complete your order; it only registers your desire to make a purchase.

Checking out.

To complete your order, you must "check out." You can do this by typing CHECKOUT, the GO command of the next store you wish to visit or any command that takes you elsewhere on CompuServe. This tells the system you are ready to complete the order and presents two options.

1. Cancel your order by typing EXIT.

2. Complete your order by responding to a series of prompts for additional information.

When you have supplied the necessary information, you will receive an order summary. You now have the chance to change part or all of your order. For example, if you've ordered three books but decide you only want two of them, you can delete one book from your order. Or maybe you would like to have your order shipped to your office instead of your home. You can make that change, too.

Once you've made any changes, you again will have the chance to review your order. When you confirm the order as correct, you will receive an order confirmation number. *At this point, your order is complete.* It is sent electronically to the Mall merchant's CompuServe mailbox for processing. The order process is the same for every Mall merchant, but methods of payment and delivery may differ. If you have questions regarding your order, it is best to contact the merchant directly by using the customer service information provided within each store.

HOW TO OPEN A MALL STORE

Do you have a product or a service of interest to CompuServe subscribers? Consider opening a Mall store. Contact the sales office for details.

Call 614/457-8600.

The Electronic Mall
5000 Arlington Centre Blvd.
Columbus, OH 43220
614/457-8600

GOINGS ON—AT A GLANCE

MARCH

		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

APRIL

					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

March 1

- New Theatre Buff's Brainbuster Quiz at Tele-Charge. GO TC
- New AT&T Link Contest at AT&T. GO ATT
- New Mystery Merchant Quiz! GO GMO

March 5th
Get to Know The Mall—the computer connection.

- Free connect at merchants spotlighted. GO MALL*
- Free shopping at Express Music. GO EMC*
- Connect-free shopping at RCA Direct. GO RCA*

March 6th
Get to Know The Mall—the computer connection.

- Free connect at merchants spotlighted. GO MALL*
- Connect-free shopping at RCA Direct. GO RCA*
- Free shopping at Express Music. GO EMC*

March 12
Get to Know The Mall—online food and flower faire.

- Free connect at merchants spotlighted. GO MALL*
- Free shopping at Express Music. GO EMC*
- Free shopping at Elite Eyewear. GO EE*
- Connect-free shopping at RCA Direct. GO RCA*

March 13
Get to Know The Mall—online food and flower faire.

- Free connect at merchants spotlighted. GO MALL*
- Connect-free shopping at RCA Direct. GO RCA*
- Connect-free shopping at Express Music. GO EMC*

March 19
Get to Know The Mall—kids, pets, fun and fitness.

- Free connect at merchants spotlighted. GO MALL*
- Free shopping at Express Music. GO EMC*
- Free shopping at Arts Online. GO AO*
- Connect-free shopping at RCA Direct. GO RCA*
- Free Shopping at Some Things Special. GO SP*

March 20
Get to Know The Mall—kids, pets, fun and fitness.

- Free connect at merchants spotlighted. GO MALL*
- Connect-free shopping at RCA Direct. GO RCA*
- Connect-free shopping at Express Music. GO EMC*

March 26
Get to Know The Mall—books and culture.

- Free connect at merchants spotlighted. GO MALL*
- Free shopping at Express Music. GO EMC*
- Connect-free shopping at RCA Direct. GO RCA*
- Free shopping at Autoquot-R™. GO AQ*

March 27
Get to Know The Mall—books and culture.

- Free connect at merchants spotlighted. GO MALL*
- Free shopping at Harris' ScentSations. GO HR*
- Connect-free shopping at RCA Direct. GO RCA*
- Connect-free shopping at Express Music. GO EMC*

April 1

- New Theatre Buff's Brainbuster Quiz at Tele-Charge. GO TC
- New AT&T Link Contest at AT&T. GO ATT

April 2
Get to Know The Mall—online auto show.

- Free connect at merchants spotlighted. GO MALL*

April 3
Get to Know The Mall—online auto show.

- Free connect at merchants spotlighted. GO MALL*

April 9
Get to Know The Mall—spring fashion preview.

- Free connect at merchants spotlighted. GO MALL*

April 10
Get to Know The Mall—spring fashion preview.

- Free connect at merchants spotlighted. GO MALL*

April 16
Get to Know The Mall—focus on business and finance.

- Free connect at merchants spotlighted. GO MALL*

April 17
Get to Know The Mall—focus on business and finance.

- Free connect at merchants spotlighted. GO MALL*

April 23
Get to Know The Mall—travel and leisure.

- Free connect at merchants spotlighted. GO MALL*

April 24
Get to Know The Mall—travel and leisure.

- Free connect at merchants spotlighted. GO MALL*
- Someone is out for blood.

*Please remember that for Mall promotions that include free connect time, all applicable communications surcharges remain in effect. Free connect is always from midnight to midnight.

Find Adventure in New Forum Files

The data libraries in CompuServe's forums are filled with thousands of programs and textfiles. The following are a few of the files uploaded to the data libraries in recent months. For a more up-to-date list, check the "Uploads" columns in *Online Today Daily Edition* by typing GO OLT-3700 at any CompuServe Information Service prompt. New columns are added twice monthly.

AMIGA FORUM
(GO AMIGAFORUM)

Adventure Game—*Empire*, an adventure game for the Amiga. Files EMPBIN.ARC and EMPDOC.ARC in Data Library 7.
Record Keeper—A financial record-keeping program that handles multiple accounts. File YOURMO.ARC in Data Library 8.

ASTRONOMY FORUM
(GO ASTROFORUM)

Planet Plotter—A program for IBM PCs and compatibles that shows the orbits of the planets and gives a data table of rise/set times. Moon phases also included. Requires EGA, 8087 optional. File ASTROE.ARC in Data Library 7.

BROADCAST PROFESSIONAL FORUM
(GO BPFORUM)

Semiconductor Info—A program for IBM PCs or compatibles that provides quick access to information about Motorola semiconductors. Program allows you to search by part number of specification. File MOTOR.EXE in Data Library 12.
FCC Offices—A listing of Federal Communications Commission field offices and monitoring stations with mailing addresses and telephone numbers. File OFFICE.LST in Data Library 9.

COMMODORE MUSIC, GRAPHICS AND GAMES FORUM
(GO CBMART)

Sub Fight—*Submarine Battle*, an arcade graphics game for the Commodore. Based on 1943 events in World War II. File SSUB.BIN in Data Library 8.
Casino—A casino program for the Commodore 128. Graphics and sound. Includes craps, roulette, blackjack and slot machine. File CASINO.IMG in Data Library 11.
Chipmunks—"The Chipmunk Song" in a Commodore 64 Sidplayer arrangement, complete with sing-along lyrics and pictures. File CHIPMU.IMG in Data Library 16.

COMPUTER CLUB FORUM
(GO CLUB)

Yahtzee for Adam—The game of *Yahtzee* for one to 10 players for the Adam Computer. Program revised in Smart-Basic I by Chris Breyman. File YAHTZE.BAS in Data Library 9.
Label Maker and More—An address labelmaker, electronic typewriter and printer driver for the Adam Computer, all in one. File TYPRT3.LBR in Data Library 10.

IBM COMMUNICATIONS FORUM
(GO IBMCOM)

RBBS—The latest edition RBBS-PC of the famous RBBS-PC Bulletin Board of Tom Mack for IBM PCs and close compatibles. This version is CPC15-1C and includes an upgrade to provide a CD-ROM library. Files RBBSDO.ARC, RBBSEX.ARC, RBBSSR.ARC, RBBSXT.ARC and RBBSXT.ARC in Data Library 4.
Modem Lights—A program to display the indicator lights for internal modems on the screen. File RS232.ARC in Data Library 7.

IBM SOFTWARE FORUM
(GO IBMSW)

Checkeroo—A new version of Checkeroo, the shareware checkbook management program for IBM PCs and compatible computers. File CHECK2.ARC in Data Library 5.
WordStar Help—A program that creates, or appends to, a WordStar "MailMerge" file so you can print any number of files without having to type in the name of each file then wait for it to finish printing. File MAK-MG.ARC in Data Library 2.
Text and Title Slide Maker—Use this program to create high-resolution (2,000-line) 35mm text and title slide files used in business presentations. Requires IBM PC or close compatible, 512K memory, CGA or EGA card, color monitor and compatible printer. File TNT.ARC in Data Library 6.

MAUG APPLE II/III FORUM
(GO APPTWO)

Cat Doctor—Version 5.0 of the ProSel Cat Doctor program for ProSel owners only. Provides batch copy, sort, type, undelete and format capabilities. File CATDOC.BNY in Data Library 1.
File Finder—A desktop manager accessory for the Apple IIgs. Searches any volume for all files that match a specified string. You will need TDM to run this accessory. File FNDFLE.BNY in Data Library 4.
DOS Master—Version 1.4 of DOS.MASTER, a system for putting DOS 3.3 on hard disks and 3.5-inch disks. Several enhancements over the version originally uploaded. File DOS33.BNY in Data Library 1.
Checkbook Balancer—FRIENDLY.CHECK, a no-nonsense check-balancing program. Does the arithmetic and prints out a summary. A documentation file is included. File FRCHK.BNY in Data Library 1.
Confucius Says—An NDA that will bring the fabled Confucius and his sayings to your Apple IIgs. File CONFUC.BNY in Data Library 4.

MODEL 100 FORUM
(GO M100SIG)

Split Screen—A new split-screen TELCOM emulator program for the Model 100/102 and the Model 200. Model 100/102 program is in file XMDPW5.100 in Data Library 3. Model 200 program is in file TEL200.LDR in Data Library 10.
Card Printer—A program for Model 100/102 and 200 that prints keyboard input on small-size Rolodex cards. File ROLODX.BAS in Data Library 4.
Batch Delete—A text utility that permits single and batch deletion of RAM files in the Model 200 by "tagging" files to be killed and then killing them. Also includes rename capability. File TXTDEL.200 in Data Library 10.

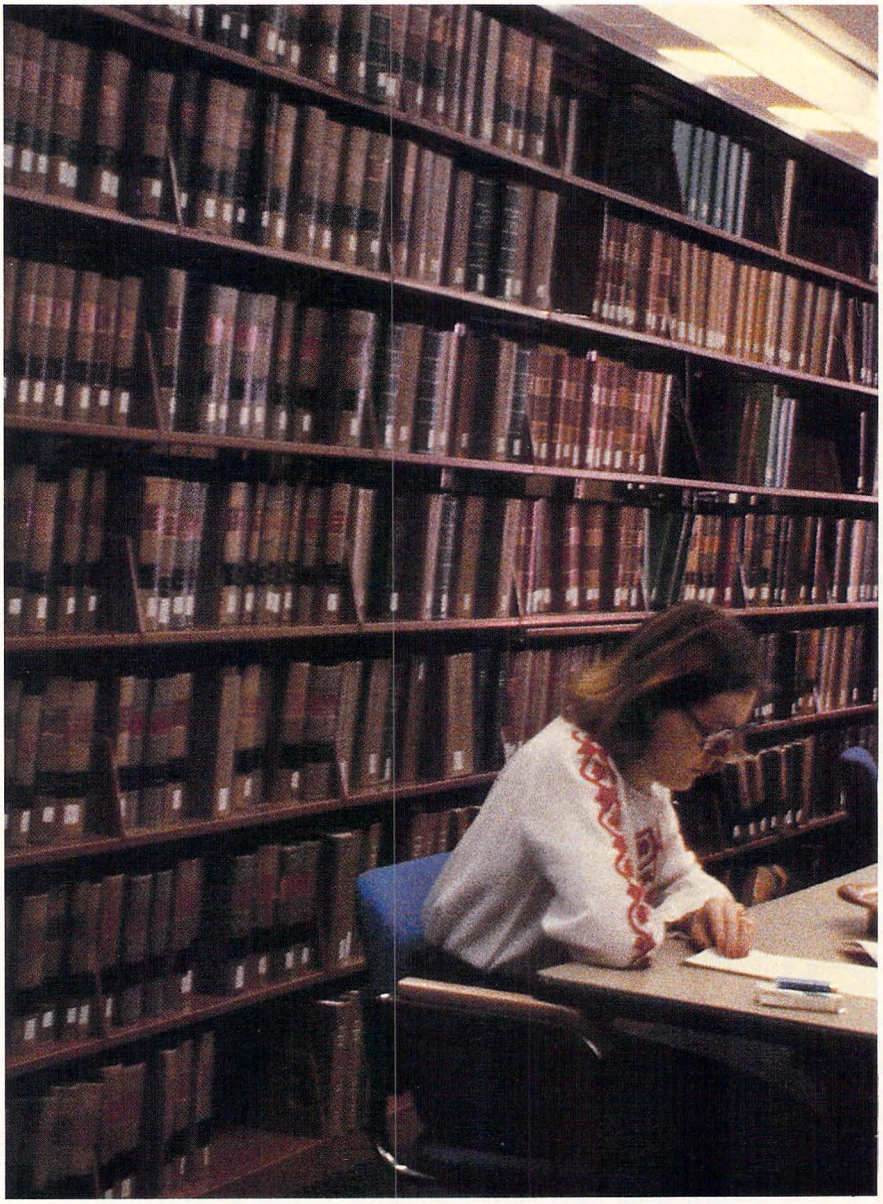
RELIGION FORUM
(GO RELIGION)

New Testament—The entire King James Version of the New Testament in three ASCII files archived using an IBM PC and compatible archiving program called PKXARC.EXE. Archived textfiles are in public domain. Files GOSPEL.ARC, NT1.ARC and NT2.ARC in Data Library 9.

SCIENCE FICTION/FANTASY FORUM
(GO SCIFI)

"Star Trek" Guide—An episode guide to the first 10 episodes of "Star Trek: The Next Generation." Compiled by Jim Lyon. File SSN1-1 in Data Library 2.
Convention Schedule—Information, listed by months, on 1988 Science Fiction and Fantasy conventions. Type BRO CONS.* in Data Library 16 to see list of files.

David Peyton co-authored How to Get the Most Out of CompuServe *and* Advanced CompuServe for IBM PC Power Users. *His CompuServe User ID number is 76703,244.*



Reach for the Online Reference Shelf

Instead of making a trip to the library every time you need to locate reference information, you can quickly look up facts at the "online library"—CompuServe's general reference databases.

A good starting point is *Grolier's Online Encyclopedia* (GO AAE). The online edition of Grolier's Academic American Encyclopedia, it is filled with the latest information on science, technology, politics, business, the arts and social sciences, and historical data. *Grolier's Online Encyclopedia* is a 21-volume general reference source of more than 30,000 articles and 10 million words.

To ensure that the information is current, Grolier's updates and revises its *Online Encyclopedia* four times a year. As in any other encyclopedia, you can look up information about the Louisiana Purchase, Amelia Earhart or the Gettysburg Address, but you'll also find contemporary articles on such topics as laser surgery, AIDS and the stock market crash of 1987.

Another general source of information, *Information USA* (GO INFOUSA), tells subscribers how to obtain free or nearly free government publications and services. Compiled from the reference book of the same name by Matthew Lesko, the online service explains the art of getting information from bureaucrats and gives other tips for dealing with the government.

Information USA contains sections for youth through senior citizens. Subscribers can use the service to find answers to business questions, locate travel information, read about plant care, obtain free gifts, look up consumer rights and much more.

IQuest (GO IQUEST) has several general reference databases from companies such as DIALOG, BRS, NewsNet, H.W. Wilson, DataStar and Telesystemes/Questel. IQuest contains fully-indexed historical data and is updated electronically each day. Both bibliographic and full-text documents are available. Source materials include magazines, newspapers, indexes, directories, books, newsletters, government documents, dissertations and more. All IQuest databases are accessible via the same menu-driven format and subscribers can choose from two search modes, IQuest-I (searches by topic) and IQuest-II (searches the database you specify). Free online help is available in IQuest by typing GO SOS.

Here is a list of IQuest's general reference databases. Names of database vendors are listed at the end of the article.

Associations' Publications in Print (BR)*

Updated monthly

Index to proceedings, pamphlets, journals, newsletters, bulletins, and other publications produced by 3,600+ national, state, local and trade associations in the United States and Canada. Covers all subjects.

Book Review Digest (WI)*

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Book Review Index (DI)*

Updated three times yearly

Index to reviews of books published in 400+ leading periodicals and newspapers. Covers all topics.

Books in Print (DI)

Updated monthly

References and subject indexing to US books forthcoming, in print, or out-of-print within the past two years.

Books Information (BR)

Updated monthly

Index of hard-to-find items, includ-

ing monographs, texts, books from small publishers, juvenile books, and books in English from foreign publishers, available in the United States.

Conference Papers Index (DI)
Updated monthly
Indexes records of more than 100,000 papers presented at more than 1,000 major scientific and technical conferences each year.

Cuadra Directory of Online Databases (DS)*
Updated twice a year
Directory of 3,000+ publicly accessible online databases worldwide. Records include database type, subject, language, and time span, with names and addresses of database producer and online services.

Dissertation Abstracts Online (BR)
Updated monthly
Summaries of almost all US Ph.D. dissertations since 1861. Abstracts included mainly since 1980.

Encyclopedia of Associations (DI)
Updated annually
Full-text encyclopedic information on all subjects. Corresponds to latest edition of print source.

Facts on File (DI)
Updated weekly
Full text of the weekly news service Facts on File. Draws upon international newspapers, periodicals, and broadcasts to produce short, fact-oriented stories on US and foreign political, business and general news.

GPO Monthly Catalog (BR)
Updated monthly
Catalog of federal government publications, including legislative, judiciary, and executive documents, and reports from committees, commissions, and independent agencies. Covers all subjects; includes ordering information.

GPO Publications Reference File (DI)
Updated monthly
References, with brief descriptions, to public documents for sale by US Superintendent of Documents. Includes forthcoming and out-of-print publications.

Information Report (NN)*
Updated monthly
Guidebook to free and low-cost business information sources, including magazines, directories and databases produced by federal and state governments, unions, associations and other organizations.

Knowledge Industry Publications Database (BR)
Updated quarterly
Directory of 2,000+ online databases available in North America from producers worldwide. Covers full-text, directory, numeric and bibliographic databases on all subjects.

LC MARC (DI)
Updated monthly
Index of all books cataloged by the Library of Congress since 1968. 2,000,000+ records represent output of most US and many foreign publishers. See Newsearch for current month's daily updates.

LC MARC Books File (WI)
Updated weekly
Contains references to records from the Library of Congress MARC holdings catalog.

Magazine ASAP (DI)
Updated monthly
Full text of 100+ popular American magazines. Subset of Magazine Index.

Magazine Index (DI)
Updated monthly
Index to articles from more than 435 popular magazines published in North America. About 12,000 new records added each month. Covers 1959-1970, 1973 to date. See Newsearch for current month's daily updates.

Marquis Who's Who (DI)
Updated quarterly
Full text of the Who's Who series. More than 100,000 concise biographies of notable living individuals.

Meeting (TQ)*
Updated twice a month
Schedule of forthcoming congresses, meetings, conferences, exhibitions, and fairs worldwide. Covers 7,000+ meetings yearly in all subjects.

National Newspaper Index (DI)
Updated monthly
Indexes most sections of *The Christian Science Monitor*, *The New York Times* and *The Wall Street Journal*. Also indexes international and national news stories written by *Washington Post* and *Los Angeles Times* writers.

Newsearch (DI)
Updated daily
Preliminary holding file for publications indexed in National Newspaper Index, Magazine Index, Legal Resource Index, Management Contents, LC MARC and The Computer Database. Records appear within days of publication and are held until loaded in the appropriate main database.

OCLC EASI Reference (BR)
Updated quarterly
Provides citations of books, serials, sound recordings, musical scores, software, and audiovisual materials contained in the OCLC online union catalog. Coverage is limited to the most recent three years.

Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature (WI)
Updated twice weekly
Contains references to articles from popular general interest magazines published in the US and Canada. Includes, editorials, obituaries, do-it-yourself articles, short stories, and reviews of movies, videodiscs, videotapes, TV and radio programs.

US News and World Report (DI)
Full-text magazine covering US and international news.

Ulrich's International Periodicals Directory (BR)
Updated every six weeks
Describes 100,000 periodicals published worldwide.

*Vendors of IQuest's general reference databases are as follows:
BR = BRS Information Technologies
DI = DIALOG Information Services Inc.
DS = Data-Star
NN = NewsNet Inc.
TQ = Telesystemes/Questel
WI = H.W.Wilson Co.

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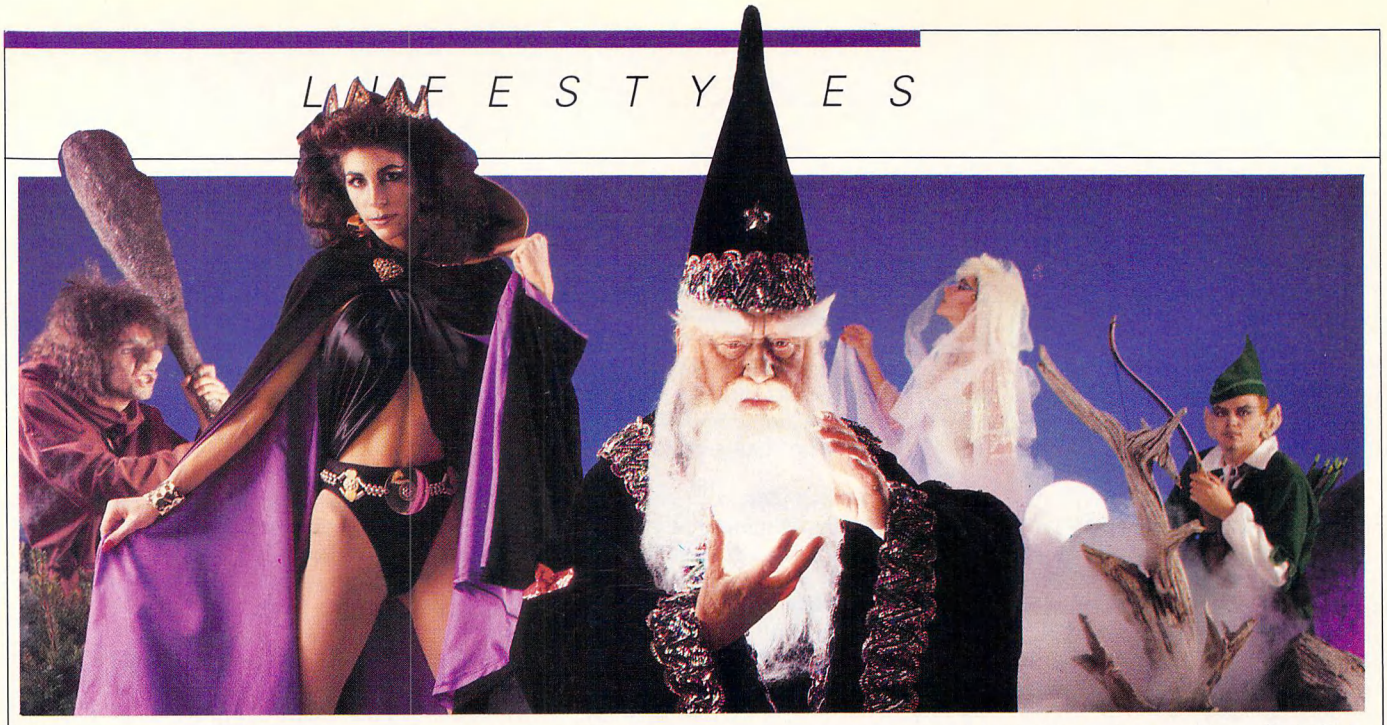


Become a Wizard Inside *British Legends*

by Ben Knox

Adventure games have come a long way since the first one was written for a mainframe computer many years ago. But even the sophisticated micro-based adventures become boring after you have been lost in a maze for the umpteenth time. *British Legends* (GO LEGENDS), with its multiplayer capability, is an adventure game like no other. As they say: "You haven't lived until you've died in *British Legends*."

The game was developed at Essex University in Britain five years ago by Richard Bartle and Roy Trubshaw. The original game, called *MUD* (Multi User Dungeon), was made available by the university to enthusiasts, usually late at night or during the weekend. The popularity of the game far exceeded expectations, drawing players from many countries, including Germany and Japan. The telephone lines into Essex University's computers were swamped throughout the limited hours.

The scenario of *Legends* is a fantasy land of dwarves and goblins. There is an underground kingdom, a sea and an island. A player can become lost in a forest, fall off a cliff, go down a mine, get tangled in a spider's web or follow other adventures. Movement through the game is by compass directions.

So far *British Legends* may sound like any other adventure game. The difference, however, is the multiplayer aspect. While traveling through *Legends*, it is likely that you will meet other players. You may talk to their characters, fight them, steal their treasures or kill them.

When you first access *Legends*, you will be asked for the name and sex of your *Legends* persona. Few regular players use their real names, so don't be surprised if, once inside the game, you encounter people called Gandalf, Endora, Azaz or Wookie.

New players start at the novice level. There are 10 levels: novice, warrior, champion, hero, super-hero, enchanter, sorcerer, necromancer, legend and wizard. To increase your level, you must increase your points. Points are given when you collect treasure and deposit it in the swamp, kill another player's character or receive treasure from a kindly wizard.

If you are killed by another player, you have to start again at the novice level. If you are killed by an action you take in the game, the game program will boot you out of the game, but your points will be retained for the next time you play.

The object of *Legends* is to become a wizard. This goal can take quite some time to achieve, for you need to amass at least 102,400 points.

As you work your way through the levels, your persona becomes stronger physically and magically: you win more fights and cast spells on other players.

With spells, you can summon other users to your location; discover where treasure is hidden; put someone to sleep; blind, silence, deafen or cripple other players. You also can cure them.

The level of wizard is a substitute for what is known as the "end-game" in single-user adventure games. In these games, once you gain the maximum number of points, you are placed in a final location which, until that point, had been impossible to find. This location, the end-game, might contain a treasure chest. You open the chest and out pops a full-screen advertisement for the next game in the series. And that is as far as you can go.

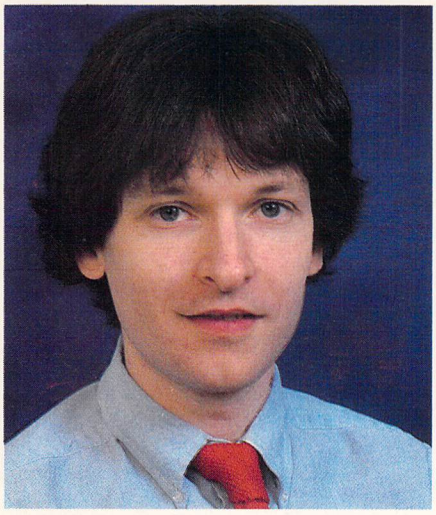
In *Legends*, you are given an ongoing end-game by becoming a wizard. Wizards can do almost anything they want. All spells work for them all of the time. Additionally, wizards have an extra set of spells no one else can use. Perhaps the most interesting spell provided for wizards is Snoop. With Snoop, a wizard can see everything other players see on their screens and can watch them enter commands.

Throughout *Legends*, players can "talk" to one another by sending messages through their terminals. A message can be shouted (so everyone in the game hears it), spoken in a normal voice (so only players in your current location can hear it) or whispered (solely for the ears of one other player).

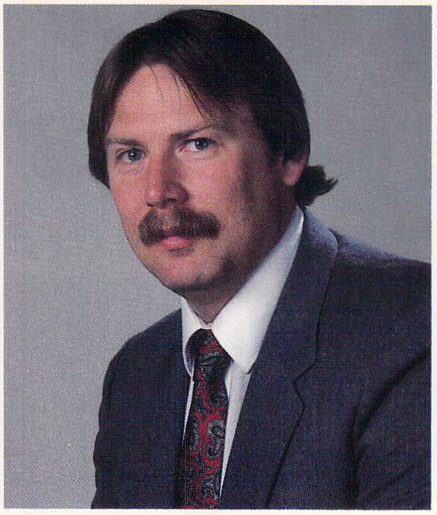
This communication facility allows players to set up alliances with other users or gang up on them. Some of the problems posed in the game require more than one person to solve. There is something to be said, therefore, for making friends with other players when you start playing *Legends*.

To play *British Legends*, type GO LEGENDS at any CompuServe Information Service prompt. You might also like to join in the *Legends* discussions in the Multi-Player Games Forum (GO MPGAMES) in Subtopic 9.

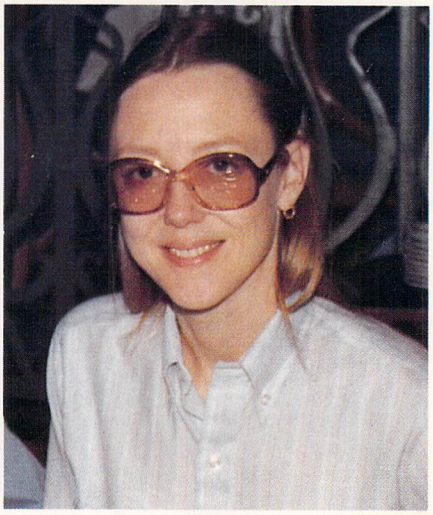
Ben Knox, a former Multi User Dungeon *player, is a free-lance writer based in London. His CompuServe User ID number is 76703,3025.*



More than a message-maker: *Moriarty*



Supporting Sierra On-Line: *Williams*



Providing prompt replies: *Groves*

Improve Your Game with Vendors' Tips

by Cheryl Peterson

Having something go wrong with your disk while playing a computer game or finding a "bug" that makes it impossible to continue are frustrations most game players would like to live without. When calamity strikes, a bit of foresight may help. Solutions may be found on CompuServe.

The Vendor Support area of The Gamers' Forum is dedicated to helping game players of all persuasions enjoy their pastimes with less hassle. Sections 14 and 15 are designed for players to provide feedback to the vendors and, in return, to receive assistance and tips. Section 15 has been dubbed the "Hot Topic" area and each month a new subject is featured.

The Hot Topic area has included *Alternate Reality, Beyond Zork, Plundered Hearts, Wizardry*, the *Zork Trilogy* and the *Space Quest* series. While vendors provide assistance for games, other forum members share their discoveries. Most public answers are mysterious to avoid spoiling the game for others. Comprehensive answers are sent via private messages if the member asking the question requests a specific answer.

Currently, The Gamers' Forum has official representatives from Activision, Binary Systems, DataSoft, Electronic Arts, Infocom, InterPlay Productions, Sierra On-Line, Sir-Tech Software and TRANS Fiction.

Support is not limited to computer games. TSR Inc., a company that makes popular role-playing board games, has members who frequent the forum. Play-by-mail companies such as Time Space Simulations, Twin Engine Games and Rolling Thunder Games also provide help through The Gamers' Forum.

"It is handy to simply drop them a message here," says Sara Groves, the forum's subtopic leader for adventure games. "Messages are usually answered promptly."

Brian Moriarty, the Infocom representative, exemplifies the support offered by The Gamers' Forum. "He's usually online once a day. Most of the time he'll answer right away, generally in the morning. He often comes by on weekends," Groves says.

Moriarty is more than just an employee who checks the messages in the forum and leaves answers. He wrote the popular Infocom games *Wishbringer, Trinity*, and the hot new program *Beyond Zork*. He has been a conference guest in the forum, both formally and informally. Transcripts of his conferences can be found in Data Library 1.

Ken Williams, who provides support for the Sierra On-Line products, is the president of the company and helped to write all the programs the company markets. He too has been a conference guest in the forum.

Cindy Barker, product manager for games-related areas of CompuServe, says that an important aspect of vendor support is the willingness of the companies to listen to what players have to say. "They're very open about their products. And that improves the games for everyone," says Barker.

One example of this type of interaction is illustrated by an incident with *Alternate Reality, The Dungeon*. The two *Alternate Reality* games, *The City* and *The Dungeon*, were featured in the Hot Topic area and an online conference with the authors was arranged. The Gamers' Forum members quickly learned of problems with the early version of *The Dungeon*. Although the company fixed the bugs, there was no immediate and cost-effective way to inform owners. Through the conference and forum messages, members were told that registered owners of the game would receive the corrected version at no charge if they returned their original disk.

To help users keep up-to-date on the latest games, Subtopic 14 features copies of monthly news releases. An index of the releases contained in each file is available. Brief descriptions of new games are added to Subtopic 14 as information is received from the game companies.

Currently, several vendors are publishing online newsletters in *The Electronic Gamer*, an online magazine covering game-related news and information. Infocom, DataSoft and Strategic Simulations provide quarterly updates that contain the latest information on their games and those who play them. To view these newsletters, type GO TEG-7739 at any prompt.

For more information or to join the forum, type GO GAMERS.

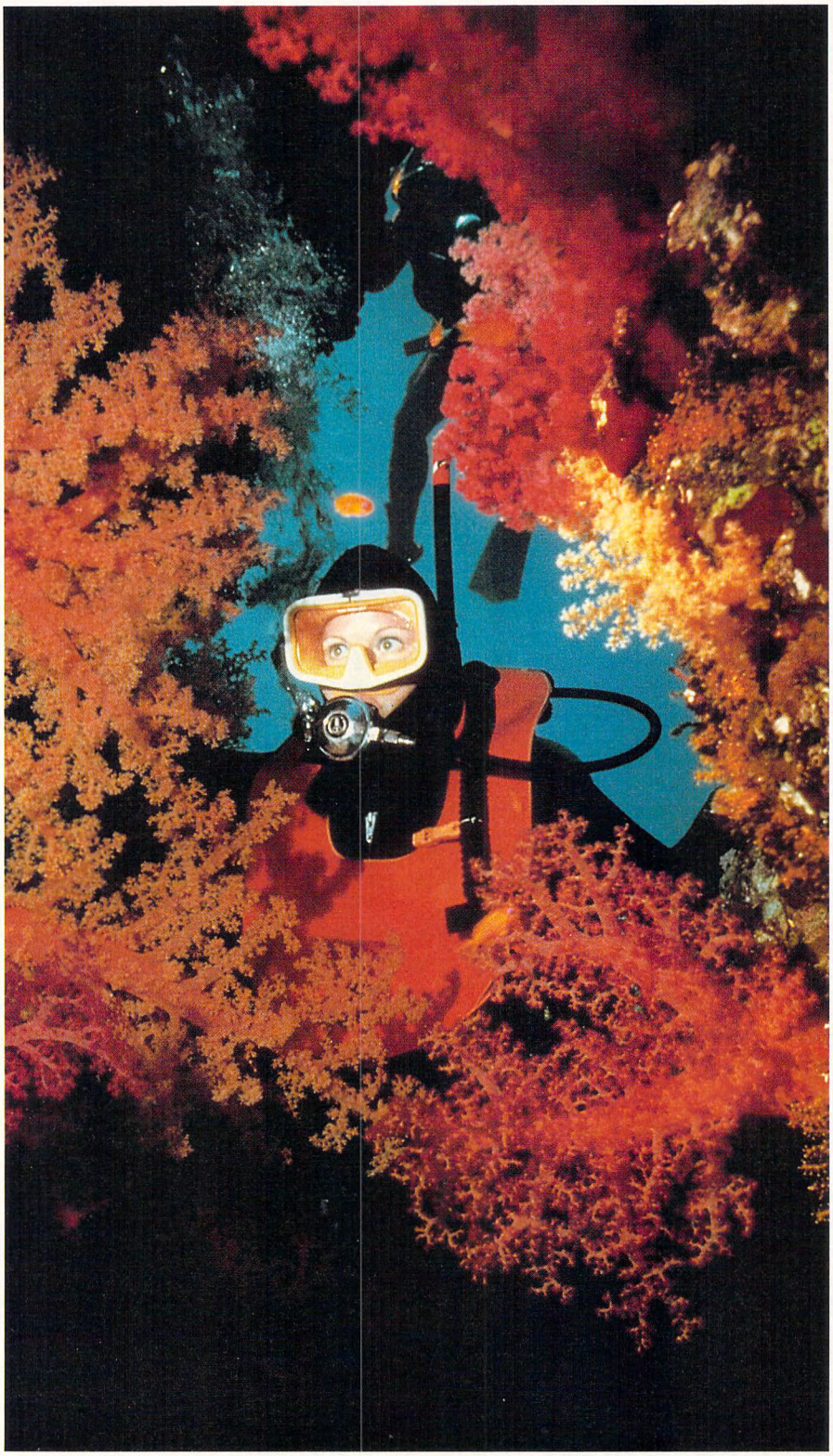
Cheryl Peterson, a computer games enthusiast, is a free-lance writer based in Miami, Fla. Her CompuServe User ID number is 72366,2645.

Take a Plunge into Scuba Forum

by Cathryn Conroy

If winter's winds are starting to chill your bones and you dream of warm waters and clear blue skies, put on your scuba diving gear and come on over to the new Scuba Forum.

Staffed by a team of scuba divers and diving professionals, the new forum provides information and promotes interest in the sport.



"More than 70 percent of the population has an interest in scuba diving, but most don't know where to begin looking for more information or of whom to ask questions," says Richard C. Drew, forum administrator. "The Scuba Forum solves both problems. Our data libraries and message board can provide all the information you need—from how to shop for scuba instruction to information on specific diving interests."

Drew says the forum is an excellent place for experienced divers to learn more about dive sites and equipment care as well as to ask questions of fellow divers and the pros. In addition, the forum's membership directory is a great reference source for those seeking diving companions.

Sections in the forum feature information on underwater photography, wreck and treasure diving, commercial diving, diving safety, dive sites in the United States and around the world, equipment and more.

Four diving professionals operate the forum. Drew has been diving since 1974 and teaches more than 14 diving specialties. He is certified by 11 manufacturers in repairing scuba equipment and works as an advertising executive for a major diving company. Drew is a resident of landlocked Burbank, Ill.

Carl Powell III, assistant forum administrator, has been diving for four years in such diverse waters as limited-visibility rivers and the Gulf of Mexico. He also enjoys wreck diving off the coast of Florida and is experienced in cave diving. Powell is an Apple computer dealer and operates two full-time bulletin board systems.

Dick Jacoby is a specialist in underwater photography and video. He has written books on these subjects and teaches at a Chicago-area college and at the Shedd Aquarium in Chicago. Jacoby is the manager of the photography department for a major diving company and continues to produce instructional materials on how to create good underwater pictures.

Ellsworth Boyd, a columnist for *Skin Diver* magazine, has more than 30 years of diving experience. He is knowledgeable about wreck diving, underwater salvage work, treasure diving and nautical research. A Maryland resident, Boyd dives the East Coast waters and those of the Florida Keys.

For more information on the Scuba Forum, type GO DIVING.

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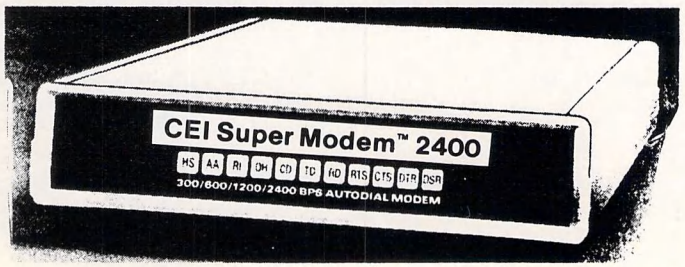

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WEEKEND EXPRESS

Destinations at Your Command

by Carole Houze Gerber

Whether by car or plane, Americans are taking more vacations than ever before—but most are also choosing to go on shorter trips and stay closer to home. One reason for this change, according to CompuServe Travel Product Manager John Matura, is that because there are now so many two-career marriages, it's often hard for both partners to simultaneously schedule extended time away from their jobs.

"Those with children find it even more difficult to make plans for long trips," he adds. "For many families, vacation travel has changed from the two- or three-week summer trips many of us took when we were children, to several shorter family trips taken throughout the year. This change reflects the more complicated lives of today's families."

Another reason people are taking shorter vacations, according to Matura, is that many hotels offer attractive weekend packages, making it affordable for business travelers to either go early or stay late and have their families join them. Also, many travelers make car trips to stay with friends or relatives, and these vacations are more often two- or three-day jaunts than week-long visits.

Matura's comments about the changing nature of leisure travel are supported by statistics from the US Travel Data Center: the average duration of summer vacations is now just six days, and the average roundtrip is 870 miles; more than a third of summer travelers stay with friends and relatives; and the majority—82 percent—travel by car.

The result of these changing travel needs, says Matura, is that more planning is required to juggle schedules and to fit two, three or more shorter trips into the family's lifestyle instead of the one long vacation that once was the norm. And because everyone's schedule usually must be taken into account, planning is more likely to involve the whole family.

Planning Together

It doesn't take a genius to figure out that children who have a voice in deciding the specifics of family vacations are less likely to spend the trip whining about what they're missing back home. Besides, says Matura, it's fun. "Planning trips together can provide a lot of togetherness time—especially when families use online services to research destinations and costs," he explains. "They can also compare notes or seek advice from other families through the various travel forums."

Families traveling together on short

trips often seek less-expensive accommodations, he adds. Many also look for lodging offering babysitting services, swimming pools, children's menus and other features that make travel less taxing for parents and more fun for kids. This desire for more than just a place to sleep is exemplified by a recent survey conducted by the Dial Corp. of the accommodations needs of nearly 2,000 travelers. Among other things, survey results showed that a swimming pool is the most used service outside of travelers' immediate rooms—exceeding, according to those surveyed, the use of hotel bar and lounge areas. Clearly, recreational facilities are a priority for many travelers.

And, says Matura, specific information on hotels, recreational opportunities, airline schedules, road travel routes and other travel-related data are directly accessible on CompuServe with the appropriate GO command. However, rather than directly accessing a particular travel database or forum, he suggests neophyte online travel planners start with "What's New in Travel" (GO WNT) for a guide to the travel area. "In addition to getting an overview, new users who first check 'What's New in Travel' will save time by getting some background before jumping into the forums and databases," he says. "I also suggest that even frequent users of the travel area check here first to see what new offerings have been posted since they last logged on."

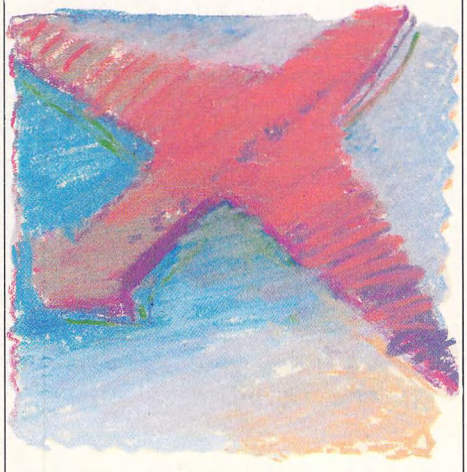
Features in "What's New in Travel" include travel-specific news items; an archival database of previous travel news; short travel articles on particular destinations called "Adventures in Travel"; a guided tour of the travel menu and an alphabetical index of travel databases, forums and other travel features, along with the GO commands.

Disney Still First Choice for Families

When it comes to family fun, Disney still holds the lead, according to a recent survey reported in *Amusement Business* magazine. Disney World/Epcot Center in Lake Buena Vista, Fla., the nation's top-drawing amusement park, attracted nearly 22 million visitors last year. Many Disney vacationers also take in such nearby attractions as the Kennedy Space Center, Cypress Gardens, the World of Florida and Sea World, which recently opened its new $13 million, five-acre "Penguin Encounter" featuring 200 of the birds in their native Antarctic habitat.

For a comprehensive, first-person account of a travel expert's trip to Disney World, check into Data Library 1 of the Travel Forum (GO TRAVSIG), administered by Floyd Fessler. Fessler's travelogue, which includes information on trip planning, is 10 pages long and requires 22K of memory to download. Read files EPCOT.TXT and DISNEY.

The nation's second most popular park is by Disney also. The original park, which featured 18 major attractions when it opened in 1955 in Anaheim, Calif., now offers 60, including two new ones: "Captain EO," the 3-D special effects video featuring Michael Jackson, and "Star Tours," a space spectacular.



Presently under construction at the California park is "Splash Mountain," a water ride scheduled to open in 1989. Like their southern counterparts, visitors to "Disney West" often take their families to surrounding parks in Orange County. These include Wild Rivers, a water theme park, Knott's Berry Farm and the Movieland Wax Museum.

For more specifics about Disney World and surrounding attractions, check into Discover Orlando (GO ORLANDO) or the Florida Forum (GO FLORIDA). The Florida Forum, administered by Larry Wood and Dave Shaver, also will provide you with direct online access to the Florida Office of Tourism. This lively forum provides plenty of first-person information through its weekly Florida Travel and Trivia Conference at 9 p.m. EST on Tuesdays, and its regular Monday 9 p.m. "beach shindigs." Special conferences featuring Florida travel experts are also offered in this forum.

Other Family Destinations

The Florida Forum and Travel Forum both include a wealth of information on other destinations in addition to Disney World. Among the other sunshine state attractions featured in the Florida Forum are such lesser-known sites as the Central Florida Zoo and Church Street Station, as well as information on bigger name attractions such as Busch Gardens, the Kennedy Space Center and Sea World.

In the Travel Forum you'll find 10 sections featuring information on the United States and Canada as well as most continents. According to Fessler, the forum is dedicated to discussion of travel around the world. Its data libraries contain reams of information—including first-person accounts—of many types of trips, from the sublime to the obscure.

Another good source of first-person information is West Coast Travel (GO WESTCOAST), administered by author and travel expert Lee Foster. This database features information on 100 destinations in 14 western states and in Canada. Foster also provides Adventures in Travel (GO AIT), which includes dozens of his travel articles on destinations in the United States and abroad. Information on domestic trips ranges from "New York's Manhattan for the First-time Visitor" to the intriguingly titled "A Minnesota Summer Savors the Aquatennial and the Arts."

Vacation package information is also available through American Express ADVANCE (GO AXP), which offers a variety of travel packages and destinations. Your local American Express travel agency can help plan your trip. The ABC Worldwide Hotel Guide (GO ABC) and the Worldwide Property Guide (GO WWX) are two excellent sources for finding accommodations to suit your family's needs. Their listings include information about the availability of recreational facilities as well as toll-free phone numbers, current room rates and other data.

Getting There By Air

One travel expert has described the travel experience as "intensified living." Because travelers are out of their normal environments, both high points and low points of their trips are magnified. Many plane travelers, for example, who might wait reasonably patiently when caught in a traffic jam at home, react angrily toward flight delays and other inconveniences of air travel.

One way to gain a sense of control

over planning your family's air travel is to use one of the three online reservation systems: Official Airline Guide Electronic Edition (GO OAG), Travelsnopper (GO PARS) or Eaasy Sabre (GO EAASYSABRE)—to check fares and limitations. All provide worldwide airline schedules and fares, and are based on a simple, easy-to-follow question-and-answer dialog structure that prompts you for information on your departure city, destination, and preferred date and time. Because fares are listed from lowest to highest at any given moment, having the up-to-the-

minute information available through these online systems can be a godsend to travelers bombarded with quickly outdated print information on special fares and confusing restrictions.

According to statistics from the airlines, on a typical day there are an average of 25,000 changes in the airfare computer systems. A governing agency called the Airline Reporting Corp. reports that during peak seasons daily updates can reflect more than 100,000 changes on some days. "Keeping up with this complexity would be impossible without access to the instantaneous availability of these fare changes shown in the OAG Electronic Edition, Travelshopper and Eaasy Sabre," Matura says.

The Official Airline Guide's Electronic Edition, like its print counterpart, is owned by Dun and Bradstreet, the granddaddy of the airline reservation systems. PARS, the system accessible through Travelshopper, is jointly owned by Northwest Airlines and TWA. The American Airlines-owned Eaasy Sabre, the newest reservation system available on CompuServe, was introduced to travel agents in 1985 and became available to CompuServe subscribers in 1987. According to Mike Buckman, American's vice president of subscriber automation, the number of Eaasy Sabre users has been increasing by 15 percent per month since it became widely available three years ago.

Matura explains that all three systems provide the same worldwide fare and flight information, and are similar in the formats they use for providing the data. However, he says, each also provides at least one service unique to that particular reservation system. In addition to airline information, Eaasy Sabre offers hotel and car bookings capability, while OAG offers tour packages, cruises and hotel information. Travelshopper enables you to check your TWA mileage account, the Frequent Flyer Bonus program, for immediate information on the status of your bonus points. Otherwise, travelers must wait for the monthly report the airline mails to its Frequent Flyer members. Says Matura, "Depending on your needs for a particular trip, one may serve you better at one time, and another system at another."

If, despite your best efforts to plan your air travel efficiently, you experience a particularly bad delay or foul-up and get no satisfaction from the airline, write to the Office of Intergovernmental and Consumer Affairs, Department of Transportation, 400 Seventh St. S.W., Washington, DC 20590. Although DOT cannot issue a fine or force a carrier to comply with your demands, this agency can help you get a response from the carrier.

By Land

If your trip requires traveling by car, Travelvision (GO TRV) is a good place to start. Travelvision offers several areas full of information on ordering maps, travel guides and even tour tapes (for your car's tape deck) detailing the sights you'll see. Many of the tapes, which can be ordered for a modest price, also include suggested walking tours and maps of the area described on the tape. Tapes are available for various states and cities, national parks and national military parks, including such famous battle sites as Gettysburg, Pa., and Shiloh, Tenn.

A routing service, offered in Option 4 or directly accessible by typing GO TRV-12, will, for a small fee, provide you with a marked map of the most desirable routes for reaching your destination. Car rentals are also available through Eaasy Sabre.

If you'll be traveling on foot, check into Information USA (GO INFOUSA) for information on ordering free maps of hiking trails through the National Park Service. Other sources of information include the Great Outdoors Forum (GO OUTDOORFORUM), Travelvision and West Coast Travel. Among its services, West Coast Travel includes online travelogues on 100 western destinations—including several on various vacation spots in California. The Great Outdoors Forum offers regularly scheduled conferences at 9 p.m. EST on topics such as outdoor activities, fishing and rock climbing. The Florida Forum (GO FLORIDA) also provides information about campsites and state parks, but only for Florida.

By Sea

Chances are if you're traveling by sea, the shipboard experience is more than simply a way to get from point A to point B. Instead, although many ships schedule stops in various ports, the bulk of the vacation occurs on board. And as the popularity of family cruises increases, cruise lines are responding by providing babysitting services and activities for children. Many, such as Carnival Cruise Lines, are also catering to the short, getaway travel market by offering three-and four-day cruises. Per-person prices for these short cruises start at less than $400.

Several online forums provide detailed information on cruises, including first-person accounts of "the goods and the bads" of ship travel. Adventures in Travel (GO AIT) includes three travelogues about cruises. Cruise information is also available in the Travel Forum, and in Sun 'N Sand Vacations (GO SNS).

Carole Houze Gerber is a contributing editor of Online Today. *Her CompuServe User ID number is 70007,1215.*

Tips for Travelers Who Telecommunicate

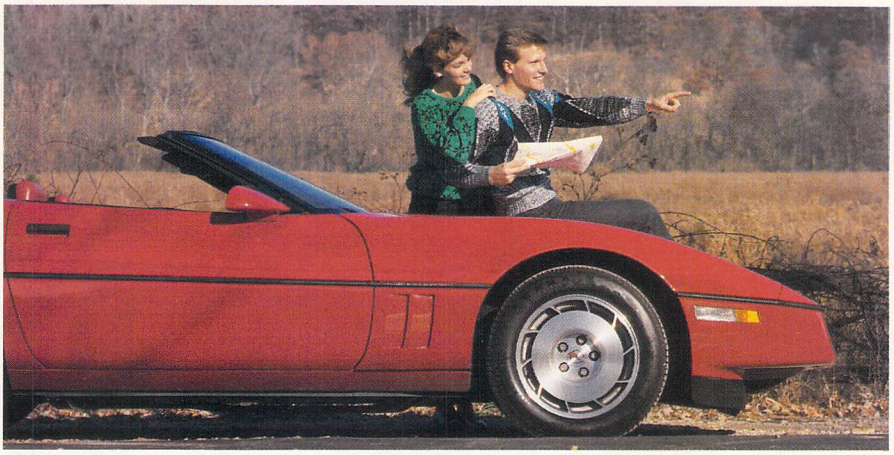
by Dan Janal

As a writer for CompuServe's *Online Today Daily Edition* news section, I'm frequently on the road reporting from trade shows in Las Vegas, Chicago, San Francisco, Boston and other cities. Although I like to travel light, one article I can't do without is my laptop computer—my lifeline to the outside world.

With my laptop—a NEC 8021—I can write stories, transmit them through a modem to my editor at CompuServe, read electronic-mail memos and, finally, see the stories published in *Online Today's* Monitor section (GO OLT-90).

But that's not all. I can check stock prices, catch up on the day's headlines and read electronic mail from my business associates.

On a recent trip to San Francisco, I wrote my schedule on the airplane, kept track of my expenses while riding the bus to town, showed a fellow cable-car passenger how to use the computer, proofread an article on the Bay Area Rapid Transit subway, and wrote an electronic post card on the ferry to Alcatraz. I'm not sure, but that may be the record for the most different uses of a laptop computer/vehicles division.



It isn't difficult to use a computer on the road, especially if you prepare for your trip. Here's a checklist of things to do before leaving home to ensure that your computer will work when you are on the road:

- **Recharge your batteries!** Batteries are the lifeblood of a computer when you can't get to an electrical outlet. Be sure to recharge your batteries before you leave home or buy a fresh set at your local discount store instead of the expensive hotel store.
- **Pack 25-foot electrical cords** and phone extension cords and connector jacks. Hotels have a nasty habit of

Online Travel Guide

Here's a handy reference of GO commands, indexed by travel area, to help you find what you need online. For an overview of travel services and a look at what's new in travel, type GO TRAVEL.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Bed and Breakfast Inns

OAG Electronic Edition	GO OAG
Worldwide Property Guide	GO WWX

Condominiums and Cottages

ABC Worldwide Hotel Guide	GO ABC
Worldwide Property Guide	GO WWX

Country Inns

ABC Worldwide Hotel Guide	GO ABC
OAG Electronic Edition	GO OAG

Resorts

ABC Worldwide Hotel Guide	GO ABC
American Express ADVANCE	GO AXP
Discover Orlando	GO ORLANDO

AIRLINE INFORMATION AND RESERVATIONS

OAG Electronic Edition	GO OAG
Travelshopper	GO PARS
Eaasy Sabre	GO EAASYSABRE

AIR MILEAGE BETWEEN CITIES

Travelshopper	GO PARS

CAMPING

Discover Orlando	GO ORLANDO
Sun 'N Sand Vacations	GO SNS

CITY INFORMATION

American Express ADVANCE	GO AXP
Rocky Mountain Connection	GO ROCKIES
Travelshopper	GO PARS
West Coast Travel	GO WESTCOAST

CRUISES

Sun 'N Sand Vacations	GO SNS
American Express ADVANCE	GO AXP

DINING

American Express ADVANCE	GO AXP
Discover Orlando	GO ORLANDO

ENTERTAINMENT AND NIGHTLIFE

Adventures in Travel	GO AIT
American Express ADVANCE	GO AXP
Discover Orlando	GO ORLANDO

TRAVEL FORUMS

Florida Forum	GO FLORIDA
Travel Forum	GO TRAVSIG

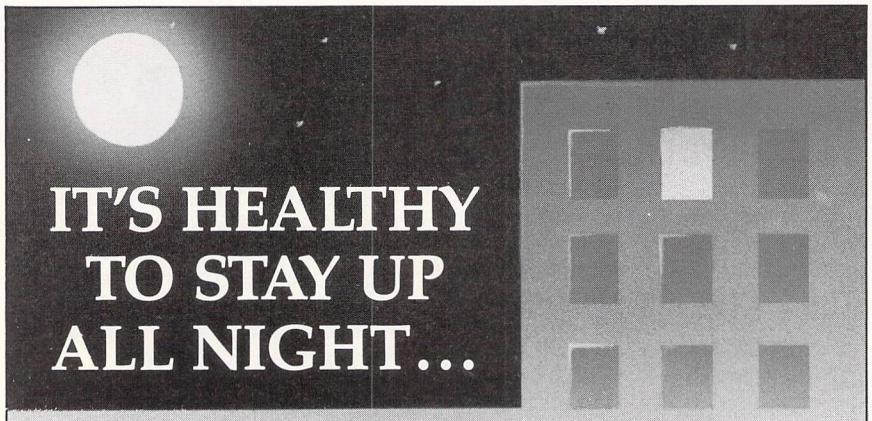
TRAVEL AND ENTERTAINMENT EXPENSE RECONCILIATION

American Express ADVANCE	GO AXP

placing electrical outlets in hard-to-reach places, such as behind beds and night tables. Extension cords solve this problem.

- **Call your hotel** or office to find out what kind of phone system it has. Ask if the phones are plugged into wall jacks or hardwired. If it is the latter, you won't be able to use your standard modem. You will need to buy an acoustic coupler, which is a modem that fits over the telephone's handset.
- **Backup your software.** It's always a good idea to carry extra sets of software on trips if your hard disk crashes or your disks are damaged.
- **Update your sign-on scripts.** If you use a sign-on script that automatically dials CompuServe, sets the communications parameters and transmits your account number and password, you will need to change the script to reflect the appropriate number in your destination city. Your laptop also might require a different communications protocol. Check the user manuals to determine the appropriate settings.
- **Find the local CompuServe number** by signing onto the system and typing GO PHONES. Follow the menu prompts, which ask for the city, state and baud rate you will use.
- **Practice signing on** while you're still at home. That way you can check the manuals if things don't work correctly. If you iron out the bugs at home, you won't be stranded on the road. Once you become familiar with the procedure, you won't have to take along heavy user manuals.
- **Check for special codes.** The hotel or office where you are staying may require you to dial a special code to get an outside line, such as 9 or 8. If that's the case, you must tell the computer to dial the number and pause a few seconds until the outside line is connected. Usually, you can do this by typing three commas after the access code (e.g., 8,,,5551212). The commas tell the computer to wait a few seconds before dialing the next number. You can also build this information into the sign-on script.
- **Buy a light travel case** with a shoulder strap for your computer, modem, disks, batteries and accessories. There are many attractive cases available at camera stores, luggage departments and computer stores. You'll appreciate the convenience of having all your equipment in one location. A shoulder strap will free your hands and make you forget about the dead weight of the computer.
- **Don't worry about airport X-ray machines.** The rays won't harm the computer or your disks. You should carry the computer with you on the plane because it is fragile.
- **Use the computer on an airplane.** It won't harm the plane or affect the radio frequencies. However, you probably will be asked to demonstrate your computer to the person sitting next to you.

Dan Janal is a free-lance writer based in Fort Lee, N.J. His CompuServe User ID number is 76004,1046.



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ARC Turbo 12

Fast AT-Compatible Computer

American Research Corp.
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Monterey Park, CA 91754
213/265-0835

Computer: ARC Turbo 12 (compatible with IBM PC-AT).
Operating System: MS-DOS version 3.20 supplied.
Features: Standard ARC Turbo 12 features 80286 processor running at 6 or 12.5MHz; socket for 80287 math coprocessor chip; ARC-286 BIOS version 4.00; two 8-bit XT-edge and six 16-bit AT-edge expansion slots; Western Digital hard/floppy disk controller; one 1.2MB high-density diskette drive; 1MB of 100-nanosecond random access memory; 101-key enhanced keyboard; front-panel digital MIPS meter; 200-Watt power supply; supplied with MS-DOS 3.20 but no BASIC or other high-level language.
Options: Various choices of hard disk; second diskette drive (drive B); video adapter and input/output cards.
Model Tested: Standard 1,024K ARC Turbo 12 equipped with one 1.2MB diskette drive, one 30MB hard disk, 8MHz 80287 math coprocessor, one serial port, one parallel port; used with various video cards, monitors, printers and plotters; running MS-DOS 3.20 at 6 and 12.5MHz.
Base Prices: $1,752 for standard Turbo 12; add $434 for 20MB hard disk, $272 for monochrome display kit ($188 for monitor and $84 for video card) or $339 for EGA card; other options and configurations also available.

Reviewed by Ernest E. Mau

I have a love-hate relationship with high-performance 12MHz 80286-based computers. I love the 12MHz speed for my work, yet I dislike inevitably running into some annoying problem. Such is the case with the ARC Turbo 12, a full-sized, dual-speed, desktop 80286 computer. On one hand, it is a superior computer with outstanding speed. On the other, it has a flaw or two.

The Turbo 12 looks conventional. Its ruggedly built chassis has room for two half-height diskette drives, with a hard disk concealed behind the front panel. The interior is uncluttered, giving easy access to most configuration jumpers and all the expansion slots.

A striking physical difference between this and other machines is a front-panel display that has illuminating "cruising" and "accelerate" indicators to show whether the computer is running at 6 or 12.5MHz. Immediately above is a digital MIPS meter that shows how many millions of instructions per second are being executed. However, the MIPS meter seems a novelty, useful for little more than noting when a disk access or inefficient programming slows the computer.

The normal keyboard follows the usual 101-key enhanced layout, which may be a plus or a minus to users. I don't like the layout because the Control key is badly located for control-intensive programs such as WordStar, but the company can provide a regular IBM PC-style keyboard if one is specifically requested. Otherwise, the keyboard is adequate.

As delivered to me, the Turbo 12 was configured with an off-brand CGA video adapter. It was snowy and so prone to flickering that I replaced it with my CGA and EGA cards. The supplier says the CGA card is no longer offered with the Turbo 12.

Other video cards, AT-style memory extensions, LIM/EMS memory expansions and assorted plug-ins have worked well in the Turbo 12. The only oddity was with ATI Technologies' EGA Wonder card, where ATI's BIOS sign-on message was garbled even though the card worked perfectly in all color and monochrome modes.

The appealing thing about this computer is its two speeds. The 6MHz setting is for full compatibility with the IBM PC-AT, but only a handful of today's programs need to be run that slowly. The 12.5MHz speed really moves, especially for graphics programs requiring intense mathematical computations. I don't put much faith in them, but at 6MHz, The Norton Utilities report a computing index of 6.1, a disk index of 3.2 for the hard disk and an overall performance index of 5.1 relative to an IBM PC-XT. At 12.5 MHz, the CI is 12.3, the DI remains at 3.2, and the overall PI rises to 9.2.

At 6MHz, Golden Bow System's Vbench shows the Turbo 12 handling multiply, loop, move and call instructions 1.05 times faster than an IBM PC-AT. Divide instructions run at 1.0 times a PC-AT, and DOS operations run at 1.35 times the PC-AT. At 12.5MHz, Vbench shows multiply, divide, loop, move and call all execute 2.1 times faster than a PC-AT, while DOS operations run 2.3 times faster.

In applications, the speed of execution for a spreadsheet or manipulating a CAD drawing are impressive.

The Turbo 12 can be toggled between speeds by pressing [SHIFT-CONTROL-ALT-GRAY MINUS]. That is an awkward combination, but it can't be confused with a system reboot combination. An internal jumper can lock the computer permanently into either speed if desired. When set to allow speed toggling, the computer always boots into the slower speed and must be toggled manually to the faster speed.

An ability to reset speed from software creates a disturbing situation. When loading or manipulating drawings in certain programs—Autodesk's AutoCAD and Evolution Computing's FastCAD in particular—the computer regularly and repeatedly downshifts to its slow speed and stays there. Subsequent toggling back to high speed from the keyboard works for a moment or two but is overridden by another downshift. Without hardwiring the internal jumper to the 12MHz speed, these programs cannot be run efficiently. Yet changing the jumper is a nuisance if one has other software needing the slower speed.

The supplier's technical representative says that engineers are working on the mid-application speed changes, but add that they don't consider it a problem. I do. I need both keyboard speed toggling and a positive lock into high speed for my applications. I get that with other machines, so it is the one thing about the Turbo 12 that could keep me from buying the computer.

That problem aside, I've had no compatibility problems with applications software, and I've tried hundreds of programs. The Turbo 12 is a powerful computer capable of working well in many applications. I recommend it for anyone who isn't running one of the questionable applications or who can tolerate either the slower speed setting or sacrifice speed toggling.

Ernest E. Mau, a full-time, free-lance writer and Online Today *reviews editor, is based in Aurora, Colo. He is the author of several books and nearly 300 articles on microcomputer products and applications.*

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ScenicWriter

Desktop Publishing Software

ScenicSoft
250 Harbor Bldg.
100 2nd Ave. S.
Edmonds, WA 98020
206/776-7760

Computers: IBM-PC, PC-XT, PC-AT and 100 percent compatible computers.
Operating System: MS-DOS or PC-DOS version 2.1 or higher.
Media: Requires one 360K diskette drive and a hard disk with approximately 1MB of storage space available.
Copy Protection: None.
Required Peripherals: Printer using Hewlett-Packard's Printer Control Language; an available PostScript version supports printers compatible with Adobe System's PostScript language.
Other Requirements: Minimum 384K RAM.
Optional Items: None.
System used for test: 640K Compaq Deskpro 286 with one 360K diskette drive, one 20MB hard disk, Hercules Graphics Card, monochrome monitor and Hewlett-Packard LaserJet Plus printer.
List Price: $695

Reviewed by Harry Green

As the old standby microcomputer applications of word processing, spreadsheet manipulation and database management reach maturity, desktop publishing is generating excitement. Although it is possible to turn out creditable documents with a word processor and laser printer, the greater power of desktop publishing is needed to create print quality that resembles typesetting.

Desktop publishing programs can be grouped into what-you-see-is-what-you-get and post-processing classes. ScenicWriter is a post-processing program, meaning that the document isn't displayed on the screen as it will appear on paper. Instead, you embed commands in text prepared by a conventional word processor or text editor. ScenicWriter reads those commands and takes appropriate actions at print time.

Post processing has two significant drawbacks. First, you waste considerable time and paper reprinting documents until they emerge the way you want them. Second, you must learn a complex formatting language as you would learn a programming language.

ScenicWriter's manual says that you need several months of practice to become comfortable with its formatting language, which is a point few users will contradict. Not only are many commands obscure, they also are case-sensitive, resulting in rejection of commands that appear accurate. For example, the command ".SetPrintM 1i 7.5i" sets left and right margins of one inch. If the letters are not capitalized as shown, the command is rejected.

Style commands such as instructions to shift to boldface or italics are preceded by a backslash and inserted with the text they modify. The command ".BoldCenter ' bf12p Writer" would center the word "Writer" and print it in 12 point boldface type.

The formatting task is simplified somewhat by using macros, which are groups of frequently used commands. Five macro packages are furnished to implement manual styles, including the one in which the four ScenicWriter manuals are produced. The typeset appearance of those manuals testifies that a creditable job can be done with ScenicWriter, but inexplicable page breaks make one suspect that the editor was unable to exert enough control over the program to fill the page without cutting and pasting.

ScenicWriter lacks several functions required for a complete desktop publishing job. It has no text editor. This isn't a serious drawback, except that to make even minor changes, you must quit ScenicWriter, change directories, start the word processor or editor, make the changes and call the editor's print-to-file routine. ScenicWriter doesn't care how the source file is formatted, provided every line ends in a hard carriage return.

Unlike some competing programs, ScenicWriter includes no downloadable fonts, so those must be purchased separately. It supports most LaserJet cartridges, but unfortunately omits the Z cartridge that has the full range of Helvetica and Times Roman fonts.

Although ScenicWriter supports text and graphics integration, it has no facility for creating graphics. It does support graphics created with several popular programs such as PC-Paintbrush and PC-Paint, but commands for including graphic files are so complex they will intimidate casual users. ScenicWriter also lacks the ability to include common keyboard symbols such as Function and Arrow keys in text unless they're created with an external program.

Aside from its limitations, ScenicWriter gives a great deal of control over document format. The program supports PostScript devices and the printer control language used by LaserJet and compatible printers. However, many ScenicWriter capabilities are available only with PostScript and could not be tested with a LaserJet. Among these are the abilities to expand or compress fonts and to slant characters forward or backward.

The program enables you to embed commands that create an index, complete with page references. You can create a table of contents, draw boxes and lines, insert shading and perform almost any function a typesetter could except printing both portrait and landscape on the same page.

ScenicWriter offers considerable versatility and control, but it isn't a program you could buy one day and use it to produce a newsletter the next. If you're producing a newsletter or short documents, you'll probably conclude that a word processor offers most features you need and is much faster and easier to use.

ScenicWriter is more suited to a full-time operator who receives and finishes documents others have created with a word processor. If the document file is plain-vanilla ASCII, a trained operator familiar with ScenicWriter's commands and macros can assemble it into a document with near-typeset appearance.

Harry Green is president of Pacific Netcom Inc., a Portland, Ore., firm that consults with businesses on using office automation and telecommunications to improve productivity. His CompuServe User ID number is 70007,431.

GO OLI or circle 16 on the Reader Service Form.

Go Online for More Hardware Reviews

The following hardware reviews are available this month in *Online Today Daily Edition* (GO OLT-220).

Compaq Deskpro 386 Computer
Manufacturer: *Compaq Computer Corp.*
Computer: *80386-based high-performance computer.*

Multi-EGA Video Adapter For Multiple-Frequency Monitors
Manufacturer: *Boca Research Inc.*
Computers: *IBM compatibles.*

The Norton Guides

Replace Programmers' Manuals

Peter Norton Computing
2210 Wilshire Blvd., #186
Santa Monica, CA 90403-5784
213/453-2361 or 800/451-0303

Computers: IBM PC, PC-XT, PC-AT, PS/2 and most compatibles.
Operating System: PC-DOS or MS-DOS version 2.0 or later.
Media: Supplied on one 5.25-inch program diskette with one to three database diskettes, depending on the language database purchased; 3.5-inch diskettes are available.
Copy Protection: None.
Required Peripherals: None.
Other Requirements: Uses 65K of available RAM.
Optional Items: None.
System used for test: 2MB AST Premium/286 computer with 80287 math coprocessor, Genoa SuperEGA HiRes Video Adapter, Sony Multiscan monitor, 80MB hard disk and Logimouse C7 mouse; running MS-DOS 3.2.
List Prices: $50 for the Norton Guides program and manual; each language database costs an additional $50.

Reviewed by Hardin Brothers

The Norton On-Line Programmer's Guides (version 1.0) system is among the latest entries in the quickly growing field of pop-up reference utilities. By providing instant access to hundreds of thousands of characters of information, the Guides can free a programmer from constantly thumbing through manuals.

The main program in the Norton Guides, NG.EXE, does not contain reference information; instead, it uses specially prepared and compressed textfiles to present reference information on the user's screen. This separation of the program from the data gives the Guides much of their flexibility but also creates their most important restriction: A hard disk is almost mandatory because several reference files are more than 500,000 bytes long.

NG.EXE will run in two modes. As a memory-resident program, it is loaded into the computer's memory once and remains available until the computer is rebooted, although it sometimes can be deinstalled and its 65K of memory made available to other programs. In "pass-through" mode, the program loads itself and then executes a specific application, such as a text editor. When the application program ends, the Guides also terminate and release the memory to DOS.

The Guides are so easy to use that the 11 pages explaining their operation in the manual seem almost superfluous. Once they pop into view, a cursor bar appears at the top of the screen. As the user moves the bar with the cursor keys, pop-down menus appear.

The most important pop-down menu enables the user to set various options, such as the reference database to be used, whether the Guides should be displayed in color or monochrome, whether the Guides should use the full screen or half, which key combination should be used as a hot key, and whether an auto-lookup feature should be enabled.

Most of the pop-up screen is used to display a series of one-line entries similar to an annotated table of contents. The user can move a second cursor bar up and down this list, which typically is longer than a single screen, and then view a page or more of explanatory text associated with an entry by pressing the Return key. It is also possible to search the list automatically by typing an entry name. If auto-lookup is enabled when the Guides are popped onto the screen, they automatically search for a match to whatever word the underlying application's cursor is on.

The Guides are available with reference databases for assembly language, BASIC, C and Pascal (the latter wasn't provided for review). The assembly-language database includes information about 8088 operation codes, DOS and BIOS service calls and the directives and pseudo-operations used in IBM's and Microsoft's Macro Assemblers. The C databases cover both Microsoft and Turbo C. The BASIC database includes information about GW BASIC, QuickBASIC and Turbo BASIC. The Pascal database is limited to Turbo Pascal.

The databases are generally accurate but limited. For example, the assembly-language database covers only the 8088 CPU operation codes and timings, omitting information about the 80286 and math coprocessors or any mention of often-used but undocumented BIOS and DOS services. The Turbo C database contains no mention of preprocessor directives, perhaps because that information is also missing from Borland's documentation.

On the other hand, it is a simple matter to create new databases for the Guides. A clear tutorial in the documentation explains how to create reference files with a text editor. The process involves typing menu entries, index entries and explanatory text into several files, then combining them with a special compiler and linker supplied with the Guides. You have complete control over display attributes, organization of information and cross-references between entries in a reference database, as well as the creation of pop-down menus that allow different parts of the database to be available at different times. It is not difficult to create a customized database, except for the monotonous typing to enter the information.

Although it isn't possible to add information to the databases supplied by Norton Computing, it would be a simple matter to create supplementary references. The Guides allow switching between databases almost instantaneously, so a reference filling the gaps in the supplied databases would be almost as convenient as the originals. The flexibility of the Norton Guides is at least as important as the information contained in the supplied textfiles.

Hardin Brothers is an associate editor of 80 Micro *and a frequent contributor to several other magazines.*

GO OLI or circle 17 on the Reader Service Form.

What price breathing?

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The Christmas Seal People®

It's a matter of life and breath.®

Space contributed by the publisher as a public service.

Byline

Micro-Based Desktop Publisher

Ashton-Tate
20101 Hamilton Ave.
Torrance, CA 90502-1319
213/329-8000 or 800/437-4329

Computers: IBM PC, PC-XT, PC-AT and compatibles.
Operating System: MS-DOS/PC-DOS 2.1 or higher.
Media: Requires dual diskette drives or a diskette drive and a hard disk; distributed on five diskettes.
Copy Protection: None.
Required Peripherals: Printer (supports numerous models and bands of both dot-matrix and laser printers); monochrome monitor with graphics adapter or CGA or EGA video systems (displays in black and white only on color systems).
Other Requirements: Minimum 384K RAM.
Optional Items: Word processor or text editor (supports MultiMate, WordPerfect, WordStar, XyWrite and standard ASCII); dBase-like database manager; Lotus-like spreadsheet program; assorted graphics programs.
System used for test: 640K Victor V286 with 1.2MB diskette drive, 20MB hard disk, EGA-style video card and monitor and Apple LaserWriter.
Retail Price: $295

Reviewed by Franklyn Jones

As an in-between desktop publisher, I want to do all the wonderful things the expensive desktop publishing packages handle, but I don't want to spend weeks learning a new product or spend extra money on special hardware. I think I've found the solution: Ashton-Tate's Byline.

At $295, Byline offers more functions than I expected. With it, you can do columns, rules, borders, template pages, justification, kerning (letter spacing) and leading (line spacing). You can import graphics, text, dBase files and Lotus-type ".WKS" worksheet files; select from five fonts; control margins and column gaps; print characters up to 100-point sizes and store keystrokes in a macro file.

The best part is that Byline is easy to use. It requires familiarity with basic design methods, however, and Byline's documentation provides a cursory education in that area, including an explanation and examples of the "rule of thirds" and various "gridded" approaches to page layout.

Once Byline is loaded, it presents a screen split down the middle. One side is a "minipage"—a working art board on which a page is designed. The other side contains various fields for defining margins, file names, page names, columns, fonts, type sizes and borders. Byline is designed to handle multipage documents, so the program always tells what page is being worked on and alternately flips the position of the minipage so odd-numbered pages appear on the right and even-numbered pages appear on the left, as they would in a bound book.

With Byline's what-you-see-is-what-you-get approach, any definitions made on one side are displayed immediately on the other side. To view the minipage as it will appear when printed, press the F7 (zoom) key for a full-screen representation. Because that process involves remapping 24 lines of complex video, the refresh rate of the screen is sluggish.

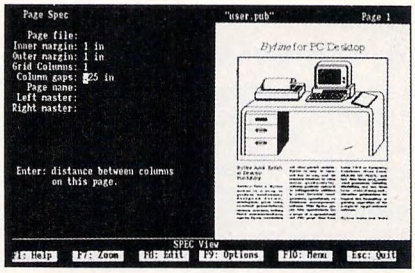
There are two ways to work with text in Byline. The first is to use existing files from your word processor. Byline will import files directly from MultiMate, WordPerfect, WordStar, XyWrite or any standard ASCII file without using special conversion utilities.

The second approach is to use Byline's text editor, which is surprisingly competent. For example, the commands for moving the cursor are close to MultiMate's commands, and you can perform such tasks as searching replacing, cutting, pasting and copying text to other files. You may still prefer your word processor for long documents, but Byline is well suited for shorter jobs.

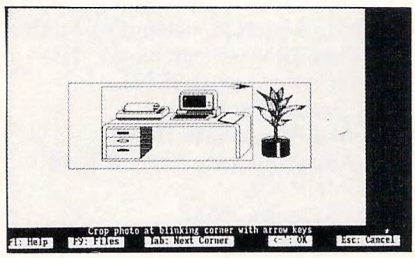
Byline can crop, place and size illustrations obtained from a variety of popular graphics programs, though it is limited to black and white renderings. CompuServe users will be happy to know that Byline can use any downloaded RLE format graphics, though it does not yet support CompuServe's newer GIF format graphics.

To use an RLE picture or other supported graphics file, first define the photo field (the size and position of the photo area on the page), then type the illustration's file name and press the Return key. It is that simple. I imported an RLE version of Elvira, Mistress of the Dark, into an otherwise drab newsletter. The resolution wasn't great, but it was distinguishable and an inexpensive alternative to clip art.

Once a document is designed to desired specifications, the last step is to print it. Byline supports a range of dot-matrix and laser printers, including Hewlett-Packard's LaserJet and all PostScript devices. Font options for text include Times Roman, Swiss, Courier, Bookman and dBase Elite. To print a complete file or selected pages therein, simply select options from the Printer menu. No additional print formatting is required because that has been handled during the design process.



Byline page file shows all: *Page layout*



Presenting photo positioning: *Byline*

Byline's documentation is packed into one 300-page manual that is complete and well illustrated. It provides a good tutorial introduction to Byline plus excellent reference information for advanced users.

Byline is well positioned to succeed in the competitive desktop publishing market. It probably isn't appropriate for companies needing to create extensive user documentation, books or annual reports, but it is a superb tool for those companies and individuals wanting to generate polished memos, newsletters, specification sheets, brochures and proposals. Byline is an excellent value, so don't buy anything else until you've seen it in operation.

Franklyn Jones was formerly the managing editor of Interface Age *magazine and editor-in-chief of* IBM PC Update *magazine. He has written articles for various computer publications, is a regular contributor to* Online Today *and serves as a marketing and communications consultant.*

GO OLI or circle 18 on the Reader Service Form.

3-D Graphics Utility

For Lotus 1-2-3 or Symphony

Intex Solutions
568 Washington St.
Wellesley, MA 02181
617/431-1063

Computers: IBM PC, PC-XT, PC-AT, Compaq Portable, Compaq Plus, Compaq 286/386 or 100 percent compatibles.
Operating Systems: PC-DOS or MS-DOS version 2.0 or higher.
Media: Two diskette drives or one diskette drive and a hard disk.
Copy Protection: None.
Required Peripherals: IBM CGA, IBM EGA or Hercules Graphics Card video adapter with appropriate monitor or Compaq computer display.
Other Requirements: Lotus Symphony or Lotus 1-2-3 version 2.0 or higher; graphics printer; needs 64K of RAM in addition to normal 1-2-3 or Symphony requirements.
Optional Items: Hard disk recommended.
System used for test: 640K IBM PC-XT with Hercules Graphics Card Plus, two diskette drives, Maynard 20MB hard disk and Okidata Microline 84 printer; running IBM PC-DOS 3.1.
List Price: $79.95

Reviewed by William J. Lynott

When it comes to built-in graphics, Lotus 1-2-3 and Symphony offer as much as most integrated spreadsheet programs on the market. But like their competitors, Lotus products offer only two-dimensional graphics.

Many types of data contained in typical spreadsheet models can be dynamically enhanced through three-dimensional graphics (charts using a Z axis plus the X and Y axes). While even straight statistical data can be viewed more effectively in three dimensions, scientific models are enhanced dramatically and often enable scientists and mathematicians to explore theoretical models quickly and easily.

Intex Solutions' 3-D Graphics (version 1.0) is an easily used add-on that functions independently but in concert with Lotus Symphony or 1-2-3. Hard-disk installation involves copying the files from the 3-D Graphics program disk into the same directory as the Lotus program disk and then running a single batch file. Diskette installation takes a bit more work, but it is almost as easy and straightforward. The installation procedure enables you to invoke or leave the 3-D Graphics program from within Lotus by pressing a special function key.

Once 3-D Graphics is in place, creating and viewing a graph is quick, easy and entirely menu-driven. Finished graphs are saved as ".PIC" files through the Save option on the 3-D Graphics main menu and can be printed through normal Lotus procedures.

The 3-D Graphics main menu offers 10 choices for selecting the type of graph to create, including line, bar, financial bar, joined bar and surface charts (resembling undulating topographical maps). Once you specify the type of graph, you must identify X-axis and Y-axis label ranges and the range from which data are to be extracted. Having made these choices, you can view the graph through another main menu selection.

Changing graph types or other specifications is done easily through the menu, so experimenting with different graphics approaches is fun. Even with relatively complex graphs, 3-D Graphics works reasonably fast in creating its drawings on the screen. An option choice on the main menu enables you to enter or change a two-line graph title and separate titles for each of the three axes.

By selecting the Name-Create option from the main menu, you can save all parameters of your graph to a ".3DP" file. When a Lotus file is retrieved, the corresponding ".3DP" file is automatically retrieved with it.

The 3-D Graphics program can handle 15-by-100 data arrays for joined bars, 30-by-100 for bar charts and 100-by-100 for surface plots. You can rotate all graph types through a complete 360 degree rotation in steps of 90 degrees.

Furthermore, you can look at graphs from three viewpoints: high, medium or low. A low viewpoint provides maximum contrast between high and low sections of the chart. The high viewpoint lets you view all parts of the graph, including some parts that may be hidden in the low viewpoint. However, a high viewpoint can reduce the perception of varying heights in a large graph. The medium viewpoint is the default view.

Bars may be filled or unfilled when drawing a bar chart. While the screen display is enhanced by filling the bars, this choice causes a deterioration of quality when charts are printed, though this may not be a problem when graphs are printed in color or output to a plotter.

Finished graphs may be printed with either the Lotus PrintGraph or Freelance Plus programs. A Quit choice on the 3-D Graphics main menu returns control to the Lotus main menu, from which you can exit 1-2-3, enter the PrintGraph program and print 3-D Graphics charts the same as any Lotus files.

I've worked with many add-on products available for Lotus spreadsheet programs, and few are easier to use or provide as clear an enhancement as 3-D Graphics. If you've ever wanted to take your Lotus graphics a step further, 3-D Graphics probably will suit you well.

William J. Lynott is president of W.J. Lynott Associates, a management consulting firm in suburban Philadelphia. His CompuServe User ID number is 70007,420.

GO OLI or circle 19 on the Reader Service Form.

Go Online for More Software Reviews

The following software reviews are available on *Online Today Daily Edition* by typing GO OLT-230 at any CompuServe Information Service prompt. Many daily-edition and some print-edition software reviews are supplemented with GIF graphics that may be viewed in or downloaded from Data Library 6 of the *Online Today* Readers' Forum (GO OLTFORUM).

Outrageous Pages Text And Layout Program
Manufacturer: *Batteries Included Inc.*
Computers: *Commodore 64 and 128.*

Post Cards Preparation Program
Manufacturer: *Activision Inc.*
Computers: *Commodore 64 and 128.*

PageMaker Desktop Publisher
Manufacturer: *Aldus Corp.*
Computers: *IBM compatibles.*

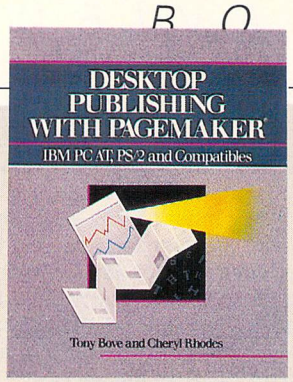
Note-It Plus Spreadsheet Documentation Add-In
Manufacturer: *Turner Hall Publishing*
Computers: *IBM compatibles.*

Cambridge Spreadsheet Analyst
Manufacturer: *Turner Hall Publishing*
Computers: *IBM compatibles.*

Master Graphics Presentation Pack With Map Master
Manufacturer: *Ashton-Tate*
Computers: *IBM compatibles.*

Info-XL Information Management System
Manufacturer: *Valor Software Corp.*
Computers: *IBM compatibles.*

Glyphix Laser Font Maker And Loader
Manufacturer: *SWFTE International*
Computers: *IBM compatibles.*



Desktop Publishing with PageMaker

By Tony Bove and Cheryl Rhodes
John Wiley and Sons, 1987
222 pages, $19.95 (softcover)
Reviewed by Michael Naver

Focusing on the use of the software program PageMaker on the IBM series of personal computers, Bove and Rhodes offer detailed instructions for creating a newsletter, business report or magazine. Reviewer Michael Naver says this book enables the novice user to start publishing within a few weeks.

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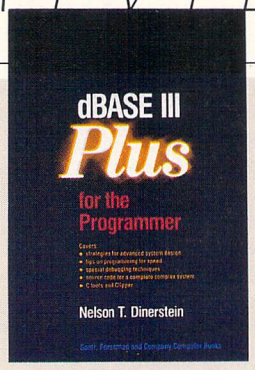
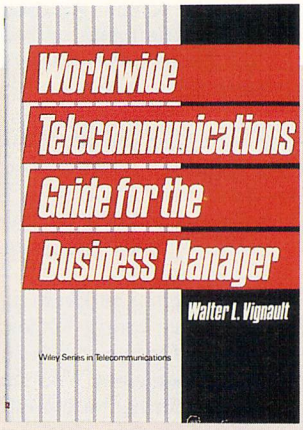


dBase III Plus for the Programmer

By Nelson T. Dinerstein
Scott, Foresman and Co., 1987
637 pages, $22.95 (softcover)
Reviewed by Franklyn Jones

Although books on dBase are popular, reviewer Franklyn Jones says this one will be of interest only to those dBase users experienced in a programming language. He criticizes the book's organization, but applauds the scope of the information in this reference guide.



Worldwide Telecommunications Guide for the Business Manager

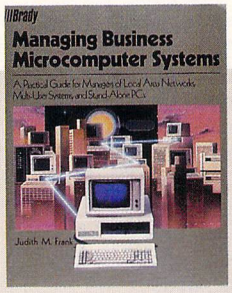
By Walter L. Vignault
John Wiley and Sons, 1987
417 pages, $49.95 (hardcover)
Reviewed by Harry Green

Designed for the business manager, this volume contains little technical detail but much information on how to telecommunicate from foreign countries, specifically focusing on services offered in various parts of the world. Reviewer Harry Green says the book contains more information on the topic than he has seen in one source.

Apple IIgs Firmware Reference

By Apple Computer Inc.
Addison-Wesley Publishing Co., 1987
326 pages, $24.95 (hardcover)
Reviewed by Brian Monahan

As part of the Apple IIgs Technical Library, this official publication from Apple Computer is an authoritative source for information on accessing firmware for the IIgs. Reviewer Brian Monahan says the book is not for casual readers, but it offers a technical understanding of the computer.


Brady
Managing Business
Microcomputer Systems
A Practical Guide for Managers of Local Area Networks, Multi-User Systems and Stand-Alone PCs
Judith M. Frank

Managing Business Microcomputer Systems

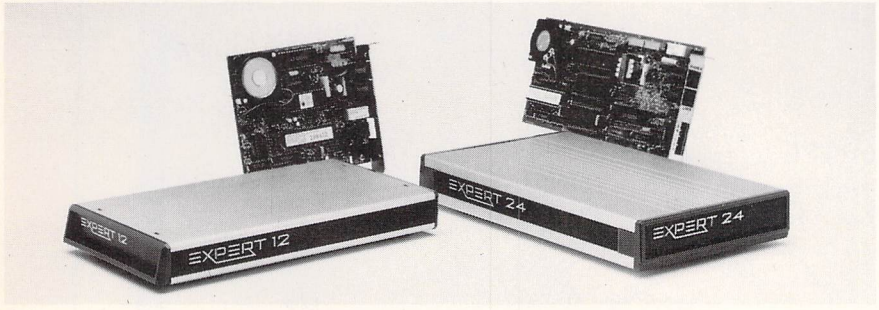
By Judith M. Frank
Prentice Hall Press, 1987
324 page, $19.95 (softcover)
Reviewed by William J. Lynott

Written for individuals responsible for managing microcomputer operations in their companies, this book presents basic topics relating to systems management in non-technical language. Reviewer William J. Lynott says the book contains much practical advice and is a worthwhile investment.

Looking for a Book Reviewed in *Online Today*?

Now you will find publishing information on all books reviewed in *Online Today Daily Edition*. Type GO OLT-240 at any CompuServe Information Service prompt and read this month's reviews from the main menu. Then select Option 6, "Publishers' Addresses" for information to order the books reviewed.

ONLINE TODAY



PC Expert Modems

Advanced Computer Technology has introduced the Expert series modems for IBM PC and compatible computers. Four models are available. The Expert 24E, a 2400-baud external modem, and the Expert 24I, a 2400-baud internal modem. Both sell for $199. The Expert 12I and Expert 12E 1200-baud modems retail for $109. All models feature auto-dialing, on-screen help menus, multiple number storage, auto fall-back to adjust for line conditions and call-progress detection.

For information, contact Advanced Computer Technology, Worcester-Providence Turnpike, Sutton, MA 01527; 800/654-6464 (nationwide) or 617/865-9912 (in Massachusetts).

Merge-System A Advanced Modem

Technology has introduced Merge-System A, a Hayes-compatible modem with a built-in advanced telephone co-system.

Integrating voice and data communication in one unit, Merge-System A is a microprocessor-based device with self-contained memory and communication software. It allows unattended stand-alone reception and transmission of data from its "mailbox." The modem is capable of 300- and 1200-baud transmission. A microcomputer or host computer is not required online when sending or receiving data.

Prices range from $399 to $499 depending on the memory.

For information, contact New Generation Technology, 16742 Gothard St., Suite 217, Huntington Beach, CA 92647; 714/841-1542.

Mite-E.Mail Communications

Mite-E.Mail from EIT is a communications software package for the IBM PC, PC-XT, PC-AT and compatibles.

The package includes auto log-on and send-and-read command sequences to CompuServe, Telenet/Telemail, MCI Mail and Telex. Mite-E.Mail has all the required features for use with most online services, including support of pathnames, emulation of 12 terminal types and command line processing. It supports MITE, XMODEM, YMODEM and KERMIT file transfer protocols. The retail price is $1,095.

For information, contact EIT Inc., 25 Just Rd., Fairfield, NJ 07006; 201/227-1447.

Carbon Copy PLUS Communications

A data communications software program combining micro-to-micro remote control, micro-to-host terminal emulation, and XMODEM and KERMIT file transfer protocols in one integrated package has been introduced by Meridian Technology for the IBM PS/2 family of computers.

Called Carbon Copy PLUS, the program operates in two modes: remote control and terminal emulation. The program can be used on a laptop computer, so a business traveler could link up with and operate the office computer. The retail price is $195.

For information, contact Meridian Technology Inc., 7 Corporate Park, Suite 100, Irvine, CA 92714; 714/261-1199.

Anchor Modems for IBM PS/2

Anchor Automation has introduced the Anchor 1200PS and Anchor 2400PS modems for use with the IBM PS/2, Models 50, 60 and 80.

The internal 1200/300- and 2400/1200/300-baud modems are 100 percent Hayes-compatible and incorporate auto-answer, auto-dial capability. Selling for less than $200 and $300 respectively, both modems use the latest CMOS technology and digital signal processing techniques.

For information, contact Anchor Automation Inc., 20675 Bahama St., Chatsworth, CA 91311; 818/998-6100.

525 Extra External Floppy for IBM PS/2

A 5 1/4-inch external floppy for the IBM PS/2 series of computers has been introduced by Delkin Devices.

Called 525 Extra, the unit, which is smaller and quieter than the IBM external drive and does not require an expansion slot, plugs into an existing connector inside the PS/2 and uses power from the computer's internal supply. The retail price is $325.

For information, contact Delkin Devices USA, 4655 Cass St., Suit 306, San Diego, CA 92109; 619/273-8086.

Go Online for More Product Announcements

The following new product announcements are available this month in *Online Today Daily Edition* by typing GO OLT-250 at any CompuServe Information Service prompt.

Multi-Vue, *a multi-tasking, graphics-oriented, point-and-click user interface for the Tandy Color Computer 3, Tandy Corp./Radio Shack.*

Quickentry, *a data entry system for dBASE users, Fox & Geller Inc.*

Access-64, *a hardware/software package that allows Commodore 64/128 peripherals to run on the Amiga 500, 1000 and 2000, Progressive Peripherals & Software Inc.*

RightWriter (Version 2.1A), *electronic proofreading program, RightSoft Inc.*

Stock Expert, *analyzes trends in companies for investment recommendations, Knowledge Garden.*

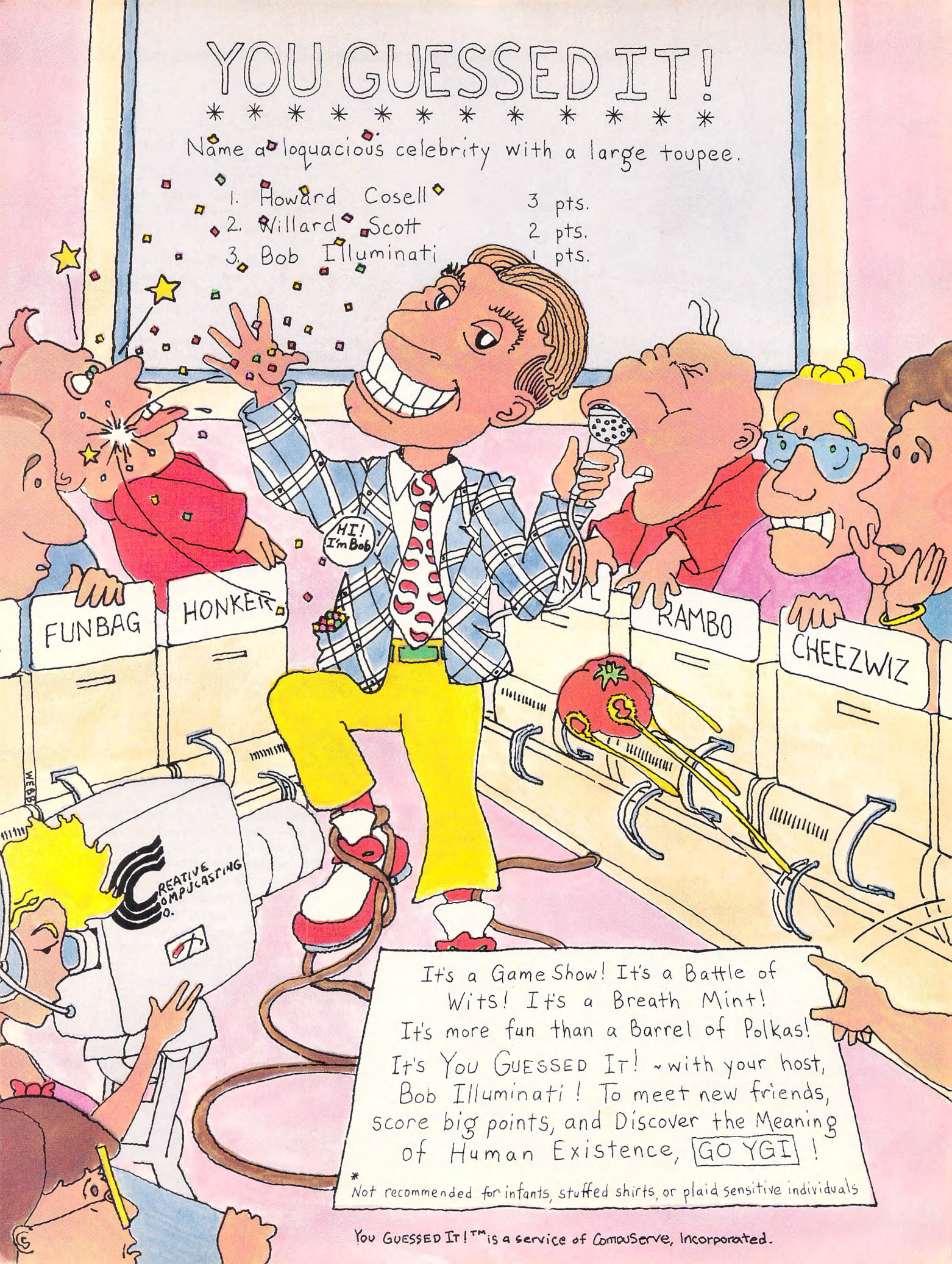
BeckerBASIC, *add-on software for GEOS and the Commodore 64, Abacus.*

MultiMax, *file and directory management system for the IBM PC, PS/2 and compatible computers, Getc Software*

TurboTax ProSeries/1040, *income tax preparation program for the IBM PC and compatibles, ChipSoft Inc.*

The Calendar, *perpetual calendar for the IBM PC and compatibles, Safe Software*

PerfectPal, *collection of WordPerfect macros, PC Template.*


YOU GUESSED IT!
* * * * * * * * * * * * *
Name a loquacious celebrity with a large toupee.
1. Howard Cosell 3 pts.
2. Willard Scott 2 pts.
3. Bob Illuminati 1 pts.
HI! I'm Bob
FUNBAG
HONKER
RAMBO
CHEEZWIZ
WEBB
CREATIVE COMPUCASTING CO.
It's a Game Show! It's a Battle of Wits! It's a Breath Mint! It's more fun than a Barrel of Polkas! It's You Guessed It! ~with your host, Bob Illuminati! To meet new friends, score big points, and Discover the Meaning of Human Existence, GO YGI !
* Not recommended for infants, stuffed shirts, or plaid sensitive individuals
You Guessed It!™ is a service of CompuServe, Incorporated.

Pet Name Tags

Solid Brass—Fine Engraved. Processed and sent first class mail, same day order received. Many more quality items available. Lots of fun things in store for you and your pet online. **GO PW**

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- Try Our Sampler Packs
- Orders shipped within 48 hours

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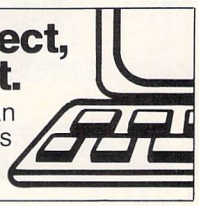
GO INDEX



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Guidelines to Requesting Information Through OLI

Online Inquiry

Online Inquiry is *Online Today*'s electronic version of the traditional reader inquiry card. To request additional information about products or services described in *Online Today*, simply access CompuServe and type GO OLI at any prompt.

CompuServe Page OLI-1
ONLINE TODAY ADVERTISERS
ONLINE INQUIRY (OLI)
1. OLI Instructions
2. Online Today Display Ads
3. Print Edition Reviews
4. Shopper's Guide Mini-Ads

Display Ads

GO OLI-160. Inquiries to this section will be followed by a brief description of the *Online Today* ad. To request additional printed information, simply enter your name and address at the prompts. OLI will add your User ID number and electronically forward your request to the appropriate advertiser(s). The names, addresses and User ID numbers will also be forwarded via US Mail at the end of each month.

CompuServe Page OLI-160
ONLINE TODAY ADVERTISERS/OLI
1. Mar. 1988 Advertisers
2. Feb. 1988 Advertisers
3. Jan. 1988 Advertisers

Editorial Articles/Reviews

At the end of each electronic version product review, you'll be asked if you wish to request further information through the Online Inquiry system. A "yes" response will let the system prompt you for your name, address and other information so that your request can be forwarded to the appropriate company. If you respond "no," the system will return you to the previous menu.

To request information about products reviewed in the print edition, go to page OLI-280 and select the appropriate listing, such as March Hardware Reviews. At the next menu, select the product you're interested in. If you answer "yes" at the question prompt, the OLI system will prompt you for the necessary information.

Requests to these sections will be stored and forwarded by traditional mail once each month.

CompuServe Page OLI-280
REVIEW LISTINGS/PRINT EDITION
1. Mar. Hardware Listings
2. Mar. Software Listings
3. Mar. New Product Listings

Shopper's Guide

GO OLI-70 to get information about *Online Today*'s mini-ad program.

To request information from Shopper's Guide advertisers, follow the instructions outlined in each ad.

CompuServe Page OLI-70
SHOPPER'S GUIDE
1. About Shopper's Guide
2. Rates and Information

***Note:** Additional requests during the same session will not require you to re-enter your name and address.

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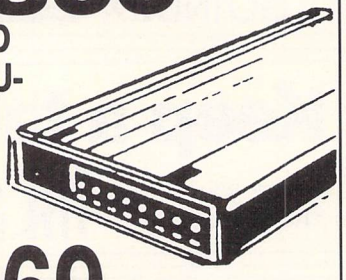

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The advertisers and manufacturers of the products appearing in Online Today *will be pleased to send additional information about their products or services—at no cost to you. Make your selection by circling the advertiser or product by number on the form below. Fill in the requested information and mail to:* Online Today, *Reader Service Management Dept., P.O. Box 376, Dalton, MA 01227-0376.* Online Today *will see that your requests are forwarded promptly. You may get a faster response by using the Online Inquiry service system. Simply enter GO OLI at any prompt on the CompuServe system and follow the OLI prompts. Your request will be forwarded.*

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	Anchor Modems	59
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11	AT&T	17
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18	Ashton-Tate	56
	Clinical Communication	61
	Coffee Emporium	61
10	Communication Electronics	47
	Computer Info Limited.	61
7	Computer Sports World	21
12	Comp-U-Store	Cover 2
	Delkin Devices USA	59
19	Intex Solutions	57
	EIT Inc	59
	GE Ridge Services	61
3	Grolier	6
20	McGraw-Hill	1
	Meridian Technology Inc.	59
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READER INQUIRY

For free information on products or services in this issue of *Online Today*, fill in your name, address, ZIP code and phone number. Then circle the number that corresponds to the number of the advertisement or article in which you are interested.

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Mail to: Online Today, Reader Service Management Dept., P.O. Box 376, Dalton, MA 01227-0376.

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3	23	43	63	83
4	24	44	64	84
5	25	45	65	85
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15	35	55	75	95
16	36	56	76	96
17	37	57	77	97
18	38	58	78	98
19	39	59	79	99
20	40	60	80	100

March issue, not valid after June 1988.

U P D A T E

New Protocols Supported Online

CompuServe announces the implementation of a fully supported Kermit protocol and a faster version of B protocol. Also available is the new ability to display GIF files online for terminal programs that support the GIF protocol.

For answers to any questions about the new protocols, contact the administrator of any forum.

CONGRESSgrams Now Permanent

Due to popular demand, CONGRESSgrams will remain a permanent EasyPlex feature.

CONGRESSgrams are personalized hardcopy letters delivered by the US Postal Service for $1 each to any US senator or US representative. Subscribers can send CONGRESSgrams to voice opinions on any issue. GO EASY

News on PC3/VIDTEX/Graphics

CompuServe's Communications Software and Graphics area has been updated.

The database now includes documentation on Professional Connection 3.1 terminal software, VIDTEX software, CompuServe's Graphics Interchange Format (GIF) and North American Presentation Level Protocol Syntax (NAPLPS) graphics. Subscribers can navigate to the subtopic areas from the Communications Software and Graphics main menu. GO VID

Flight Planning Added Online

In addition to providing enroute weather briefings, the CompuServe Aviation Briefing System now provides flight plans showing navigation information, distance, estimated time and required fuel.

Time and fuel calculations use the Winds Aloft forecasts for the proposed departure time and aircraft performance data entered by the pilot. This data can be entered once and saved for all flight plan calculations. GO BRIEFING

New Apple Vendors'/Hyper Forums

CompuServe has expanded its support of Apple Macintosh and Apple II/III computers with the new Apple Vendors' and Apple Hyper Forums.

The Apple Vendors' Forum allows vendors, including Acius, Ann Arbor Softworks, CE Software, Data Tailor, First Class Peripherals, Mainstay, Software Supply, Stone Edge Technologies, Survivor and TOPs, to provide online support of their products. Other vendors will be added in the future.

The Apple Hyper Forum supports Apple Hypertext technologies and software. Discussions will cover applications of the Apple Hypercard program and other Hypertext-oriented programs for the Apple Macintosh. GO APPVEN, GO APPHYPER

1988 Cars in New Car Showroom

Subscribers looking for a new car, passenger van, special purpose vehicle or truck can compare 1988 information on more than 850 models in CompuServe's New Car Showroom.

Pricing of vehicles is now more comprehensive and package features are listed. New 1988 information includes shoulder room dimensions, ABS brakes, leather seats and airbags as standard or optional features. GO NEWCAR

PC Vendor Support Forum Adds Companies

The PC Vendor Support Forum, a support forum for IBM PC-related products, has added Custom Technologies, Knowledge Garden, Magee Enterprises, Mustang Software and Toshiba America.

These vendors are now available to answer questions and provide information about their products. The five new companies join Bröderbund, Buttonware, Laser Friendly, Mansfield Software and The Software Group in the forum. GO PCVEN

OLT Forum Offers Online Help

Online Today Daily Edition now features the *Online Today* Readers' Forum, a meeting place and feedback center for readers of *Online Today*'s daily and print editions.

The OLT Forum administrators are available to help subscribers use CompuServe more productively and efficiently, to answer questions about articles appearing in *Online Today*, and to help users learn more about the online community and online computing in general. GO OLTFORUM

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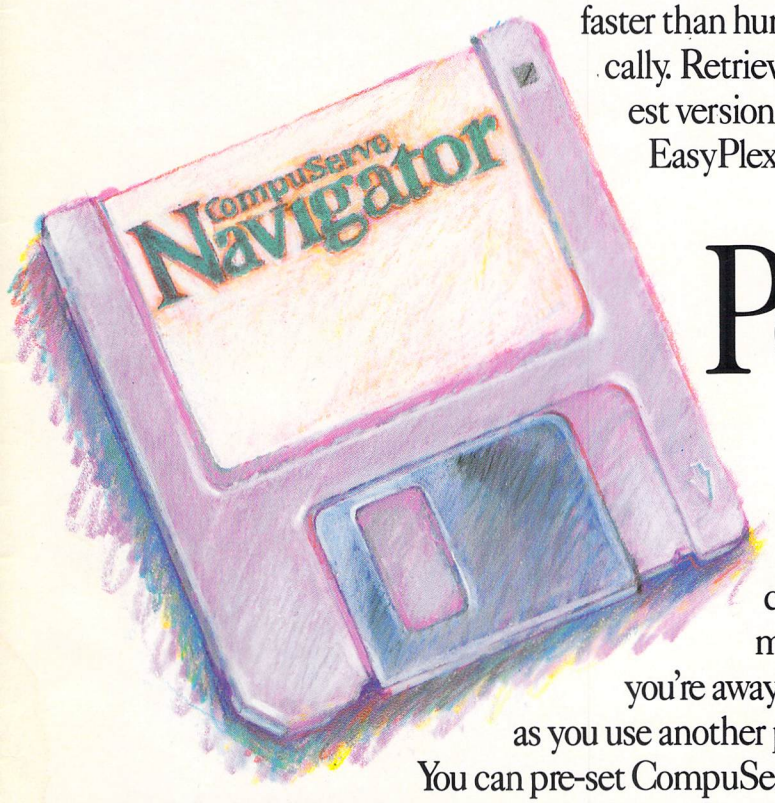

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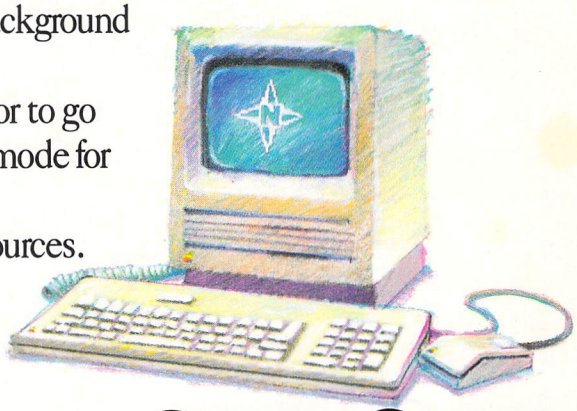

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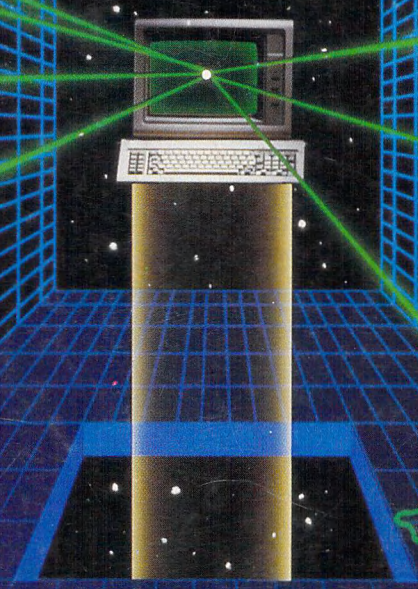

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